

Somalis celebrate 'victory' attack

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Women and children joined a demonstration of supporters of wanted warlord Mohammed Farah Aided here Sunday celebrating "the victory" attack on a helicopter gunship in which three American soldiers died. Leaders of General Aided's Somali National Alliance (SNA) whipped the crowd up into a triumphal mood, describing Saturday's attack as revenge for the capture of Gen. Aided's right-hand man Osman Hussein Ali "Ato." Three U.S. soldiers with the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) were killed when militiamen downed the helicopter Saturday, sparking ground fighting that wounded three other Americans and three "Pakistanis." But despite the crowd's bravado, there was an air of nervous expectation waiting to see how the United Nations would respond to the latest killings. Supporters said it was revenge for Mr. Osman Ato's arrest, but they were now waiting to see how the U.N. and Americans would react. The American forces were maintaining a silence, even after reports that jubilant Somalis had paraded the soldiers' charred remains in Mogadishu Saturday. Recent attacks on U.N. forces blamed on Gen. Aided's faction have resulted in U.S.-led reprisals.

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 جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة المنشورة بالمؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"



PLO-Israeli teams to meet in Egypt

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli and Palestinian negotiators will meet in Egypt's Sinai desert for negotiations on the army's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, Israel Radio said Saturday. It said the talks would take place in either Taba on the Red Sea or Al Arish on the Mediterranean. All other negotiations with the Palestinians would take place in Washington, where Israel and the other Arab parties in the Middle East peace process — Lebanon, Syria and Jordan — would also continue to meet. A military team, headed by General Uzi Dayan, will negotiate the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, the radio said. Gen. Dayan, 46, is in charge of the army's planning department and a nephew of the late Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. Israel Radio said the venue for the future negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was discussed at Sunday's weekly cabinet meeting. Israel and the PLO must sign an agreement on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho within two months of the implementation of the accord on self-rule which they signed in Washington on Sept. 13. Autonomy comes into effect on Oct. 13.

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Minister heads team to U.N.

PARIS (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataan Al Hassan Sunday left for New York at the head of a Jordanian delegation to take part in the 48th U.N. General Assembly session. Mr. Hassan will meet with several Arab and Islamic foreign ministers, the U.N. secretary general and foreign ministers of the United States and Russia. The minister will discuss the Middle East peace process and issues of mutual concern.

Mubarak to visit U.S. in October

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will visit Washington next month for talks with his U.S. counterpart Bill Clinton on ways to reinforce the Middle East peace process, officials said Sunday. Mr. Mubarak will fly to the U.S. capital at the invitation of Mr. Clinton after starting his third term in office on Oct. 13. Officials gave no specific date.

Knesset to lift Deri's immunity

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A court trial on fraud charges for Aryeh Deri, the ultra-orthodox religious Shas Party leader, moved closer Sunday. As a committee of Israeli parliamentarians called for his parliamentary immunity to be lifted. The parliament's house committee unanimously backed lifting immunity from prosecution for Mr. Deri, who resigned as interior minister on Sept. 8 over allegations he embezzled \$300,000 from public funds. A full Knesset session is now expected to rubber stamp the committee decision on Oct. 12.

Israeli officials fears losing jobs

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Scores of civil servants who administer Israel's occupation of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank demonstrated here Sunday, fearing they will be out of work when Palestinian autonomy is launched. "Rabin don't forget the soldiers without uniform," about 200 protesters shouted outside Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office.

Rabin seeks new intelligence chiefs

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is looking for new heads for the Shin Beth and Mossad, Israel's domestic and foreign intelligence services, military sources said Sunday. Mr. Rabin, who is also defence minister, has already interviewed several candidates for the top jobs, including army generals, they said.

Yemen seeks better ties with neighbours

SANAA (AP) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh, alienated from Gulf Arab states because of his country's sympathy for Iraq during the Gulf war, implied Sunday that he is willing to work for better ties with his neighbours. "We have exerted efforts and will continue to exert them until Arab solidarity is regained, and will continue our support for Pan-Arab causes, led by the Palestinian cause," Mr. Saleh said.

Kaddoumi could meet Christopher

TUNIS (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) political chief Farouk Kaddoumi said Sunday he could meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher when he flies to New York to attend the opening of a new U.N. General Assembly session. But Mr. Kaddoumi, the PLO's "foreign minister," ruled out a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Mr. Kaddoumi told AFP he would fly to New York Monday.

King strongly hints polls could be delayed

Progress in efforts to improve ties with Gulf states — except Kuwait

Separation of religion from politics key to resolve conflict over Jerusalem

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein has strongly signalled a likely postponement of Jordan's general elections scheduled to be held on Nov. 8 to prevent the polls being turned into a battle between proponents and opponents of the autonomy agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The King told western reporters at a private dinner Saturday night that a decision would be made within the next few days on whether to proceed with the election scheduled for Nov. 8. "There is a likelihood ... of postponement for a limited period until matters clear up a little bit more and we know exactly where we all stand in the interests of cohesion within the country," he said. "The possibility ... is either

to proceed, or to postpone until things are clear or having it simultaneously with the ones (elections) in the occupied territories," the King said. He said he expected to decide by Wednesday whether Jordan would postpone its parliament elections because of confusion created by the unexpected abrupt Israel-PLO agreement. In late August it became known that the PLO and Israel were getting ready to deal openly and directly with each other. "I really went into isolation for a good 24 hours, thinking it all over," King Hussein said. "Obviously, the shock is that they didn't tell us, although we provided the umbrella. But thank God, thinking back, what has happened has happened and maybe it's for the better." He told the group of foreign

reporters invited from around the Middle East that "I could have scuttled the deal very easily ... but then I don't think I would have been able to live with myself." He said he was convinced Jordan would postpone its parliament elections because of confusion created by the unexpected abrupt Israel-PLO agreement. King Hussein flatly rejected the idea that Palestinians could vote both in elections for the interim self-rule authority and for the Jordanian parliament. "They can't vote here and vote there at the same time," he said. "The basic question is a personal choice for anyone whether they should go or stay." "There are many questions: Who will vote here? Who will vote there? Who is ineligible to vote there? On a personal



choice: Who will choose to stay or go? People can't vote here and there, so all this is still unclear," he said. The polls scheduled for November are Jordan's first multi-party elections for 37 years, while elections to a Palestinian council are to take place next July under the Israeli-PLO accord on limited autonomy. Asked if this meant that Palestinians voting in the occupied territories would lose their Jordanian citizenship, King Hussein replied: "It (Continued on page 3)

Decision to postpone elections by one year expected tomorrow

By Ayman Al Safadi
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A decision to postpone parliamentary elections scheduled for Nov. 8 is expected to be announced Tuesday, informed sources said Sunday. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the elections would be postponed for one year upon the recommendation of the Cabinet to His Majesty King Hussein who would accept it and announce the decision to put off the polls by a Royal Decree. The sources said the decision would be announced Tuesday before the deadline for the resignation of government (officials) planning to contest the polls, which falls on Wednesday. The Election Law stipulates that civil servants planning to compete in the elections should resign one month before the elections are held. It adds that a decision on the resignation should be issued 10 days after its submission. If no decision rejecting the resigna-

tion is issued within this period, the resignation will go into effect automatically. On Saturday, King Hussein told foreign correspondents that the elections might be postponed. "There is a likelihood ... of postponement for a limited period until matters clear up a little bit more and we know exactly where we all stand in the interests of cohesion within the country," the King said. The Reuters news agency said the King told foreign correspondents that he was concerned the election campaign could turn into a contest between opponents and proponents of the accord, thus creating "rift between our peoples." Jordanians have been divided down the middle on whether the elections should be postponed or not. Proponents of postponing the elections fear that the PLO-Israel accord might become the major issue in the polls, overshadowing other issues according to which parliamentarians should be elected. They also say the polls

should be postponed until the future of Palestinian displaced persons in Jordan is known — whether they will stay in the Kingdom or choose to return to the occupied territories and become citizens of another political entity. Jordanian officials have said they will not allow Jordanians of Palestinian origin to vote both in parliamentary elections here and elections for a self-rule council in the West Bank and Gaza. The PLO-Israel accord says elections in the occupied territories should be held no later than July 1994. Political parties and figures who support holding the elections on the scheduled date say postponing the polls will hurt the democratisation process and disrupt Jordan's image as a model of democracy in the Arab World. They say democracy should not be halted every time a controversial issue emerges and the government should have faith in the people's ability to deal with the

Jordan will not accept Palestinian refugees from Syria and Lebanon

By Jamal Halaby
 The Associated Press

AMMAN — Jordan said Sunday that it will not accept Palestinian refugees who live in Syria and Lebanon and that their 45-year-old plight was an international responsibility. Information Minister Maan Abu Nowar said the United States must help find an answer to the problem of the refugees, most of whom were forced out of their homes in British-mandate Palestine when Israel was created in 1948. Dr. Abu Nowar's comments follow unconfirmed reports that Syria and Lebanon planned to expel Palestinian refugees from their territories once a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict is achieved. Dr. Abu Nowar told the Associated Press: "Palestinian refugees in Lebanon will not be allowed to come to Jordan. ... to burden Jordan further will be resisted strongly. ... To bring (them) here ... will be impossible. ... it will be catastrophic for the area and then you will have turmoil in Jordan." Dr. Abu Nowar said.

The minister said Jordan could not shelter more refugees because "our land and our economy can not take it any more." "The U.S. has to twist some arms," he added, in an implicit call on the United States to intercede with Syria and Lebanon to allow Palestinian refugees to remain in their territories. However, he said, many of the refugees will opt to stay in Lebanon and Syria. He did not elaborate, but it was an implicit reference to the roots that the refugees have built in those countries since their exile. Jordan hosts 1.2 million Palestinians who fled to the Kingdom in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. They reside in 11 refugee camps across the country. Additionally, 600,000 Palestinians have settled in Jordan from the 1948 conflict. They have been integrated into the Jordanian society. U.N. statistics show that at least 300,000 Palestinian refugees live in Syria and 325,000 in Lebanon. The rest of the world's 5.5 million Palestinians

are scattered around the world. It is not yet clear how many of them will be allowed to return to the West Bank and Gaza under an interim autonomy accord signed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel on Sept. 13. The accord calls for Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza and West Bank town of Jericho within six months to make the way for a Palestinian self-rule authority to assume control. The rest of the West Bank will remain under Israeli control. The final status of the territories will be determined in negotiations starting no later than the third year of autonomy. Israel has ruled out a massive return of Palestinians to the occupied territories during the interim period. But PLO information chief Yasser Abed Rabbo said last week that the organisation would seek to repatriate 875,000 Palestinian whom he described as refugees from the 1967 war. Almost all of them live in Jordan and Egypt, he said.

'Would-be bomber' killed in Gaza

Combined agency dispatches

OCUPPED JERUSALEM — A suicide car bomb went off prematurely in the occupied Gaza Strip Sunday and soldiers found the charred body of a Palestinian in the burnt-out wreck, the army said. No one else was hurt. A leaflet released by Islamic fundamentalists after the explosion promised the attack was the first of many suicide attacks. Arab reports identified the dead man as Ashraf Mahadi, 19, a tailor who had served two prison sentences. The car was found in the Sheikh Ajlin neighbourhood of Gaza City, the army said. The army said the remnants of two pipe-bombs as well as canisters of bottled gas were found in the car's hull, discovered by a routine army patrol in Gaza City. Army radio said it was a suicide attack gone awry. Arab reports said the dead man was a member of the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas organisation, which has vowed to sabotage the recent Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel agreement. The leaflet, published jointly by Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad group, vowed to carry out more such "venerable suicidal operations against the Zionist enemy."

Arafat: Independence in 3 years

ANKARA (Agencies) — An independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital will be created within the next three years, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said at the end of a 24-hour official visit to Turkey. Mr. Arafat told journalists before leaving with his wife for Tunis that before three years were up there would be discussions "about the final status which will lead to the independent Palestinian state and its capital East-Jerusalem which we call Holy Jerusalem." He welcomed the "political support" given by Turkey and its pledge to help reconstruct the basic infrastructure in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. "We are start-

ing from zero," he said. Ankara has pledged \$2 million in aid to help finance the autonomy accord agreement for the autonomous Palestinian regions and will attend the Oct. 1 talks in Washington on aid for the agreement. Mr. Arafat said he was very pleased with the "friendly and brotherly" talks which he described as "positive, important, fruitful and constructive" with Turkish leaders. He said "when we went to Madrid (for the first round of peace talks) it was known from the beginning, including by the Syrians, that the Palestinians had two states (in mind). The first is the interim period stage and the second, the final stage while in the Arab talk lines there will be the final stage

only. "So what we have done is we have started the first stage," he added. The agreement with Israel is "a first step in our long march to establish an independent Palestinian state... which will be federated with Jordan in accord with the free will of the two peoples," Mr. Arafat said. He said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad told him in an earlier discussion that Mr. Assad was neither for nor against the agreement because it "belongs to the Palestinian people and the leadership." Questioned on the Israeli foreign minister's call on Arab countries to end the state of war and their embargo against

Kremlin in compromise talks; Rutskoi vows 'fight to death'

Combined agency dispatches

MOSCOW — The Kremlin sent a top strategist to St. Petersburg Sunday to explore compromise with powerful leaders from Russia's regions but the parliament hardliners here showed little readiness to back down in the political crisis. Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Shakhrai, a close aide to President Boris Yeltsin, met with executive and legislative leaders from 60 regions who gathered in Russia's Tatarstan capital to discuss solutions to the deadlock. Mr. Shakhrai said afterwards: "We can take a step forward" if the proposals from the assembly of regional officials were "realistic." Another key Yeltsin aide, Mikhail Poltorano, also met with the chief justice of the constitutional court and both meetings explored possibilities for holding early general elections, a Moscow radio station and other sources said. But as the Kremlin put out

feelers on making a deal on elections, leaders of the self-proclaimed rival government that remains holed up in the parliament building stuck to a hard line that seemed to exclude any realistic compromise. Roslan Khasbulatov, the speaker of the Soviet-era parliament that was dissolved by Mr. Yeltsin Tuesday, told reporters that the president must reverse that decision before any compromise deal could be discussed. "The congress will study carefully the resolution of participants in St. Petersburg, but will not change its position," Mr. Khasbulatov said. He denounced deputies seeking compromise talks with the Kremlin, but Ramzao Abdulatipov, chairman of the parliament's chamber of nationalities, attended the St. Petersburg meeting and also said he favoured simultaneous elections. As he spoke, some 7,000 hardline protesters brandishing red Soviet flags and anti-

Yeltsin placards, stood outside the parliament which remained surrounded by security forces from a number of law-enforcement agencies. Alexander Rutskoi, the rival Russian "president" appointed by parliament after its dissolution, asserted the Kremlin was planning a provocation as a pretext for security forces to storm the parliament building. "It's better to die like a man than lie like a dog," Mr. Rutskoi said, adding that he and his supporters were "ready to fight to the death" if the parliament, or "White House" as it is called here, were stormed by security forces. He claimed the Kremlin planned to infiltrate a few provocateurs into the parliament. Mr. Yeltsin's bid for undisputed control over the world's largest country was buttressed Saturday when finance ministers of the seven rightist powers meeting in Washington squarely backed his efforts to create a free market society (see inside).

Journalist held for 'slandering' security court

By Sana Attieh
 Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Jordanian journalist covering the Muta University trial at the State Security Court was arrested in front of the courthouse on Sunday on charges of slandering the court. Ramadan Rawashdeh, a reporter for Al Ahali weekly, was detained by policemen outside the court, eyewitnesses and judicial sources said. "Rawashdeh had slandered the State Security Court by trying to cast doubts on the neutrality, independence and integrity of this court," a military judicial source told the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. The source referred to an article Mr. Rawashdeh wrote

in Al Ahali on Sept. 20, where a sub-headline read: "Court delays referring defendants to doctors." Mr. Rawashdeh wrote that the defence in the trial, where 10 men are accused of trying to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein, had motioned the court that doctors and psychiatrists conduct tests on some of the defendants to detect any signs of torture. The defence alleges that the defendants, five of whom were students at the Muta University, a military academy south of Amman, were tortured during their detention at the General Intelligence Department (GID). The reporter wrote that the defence request had not been implemented. What appeared to have annoyed the court, however, was the headline, which the

judicial source described as "slander against the court." The sources said they were also provoked by Mr. Rawashdeh on Sunday when he stood outside the court with a placard which read that the court would not allow him inside the hearings and calling the move "unjust." The security officers at the gates of the military court on Saturday prevented the journalist from going into the building after they withdrew his entry permit. He apparently tried to enter the court again on Sunday when the order for his detention was made by Major Mohammad Hijazi, who is prosecuting the Muta trial (see page 10). Before Mr. Rawashdeh's arrest, Al Ahali sent a letter to Minister of Information Ma'an Abu Nowar protesting against

the court's banning of the reporter from attending the trial, saying it was a violation of the Press and Publications Law, which guarantees the journalists the right of access to information. The paper asked the minister to intervene and allow its reporter to attend the trial. Al Ahali, a mouthpiece for the left-wing Jordan People's Democratic Party (Hashd), issued a statement on Sunday calling on "all forces concerned with democracy, human rights and public freedoms, to raise their voices against the arrest and to call for Ramadan Rawashdeh's immediate release." Mohammad Farhan, an editor of the weekly, told the Jordan Times that the military prosecution had no right to arrest (Continued on page 3)

Gulf Arab states revive idea for large joint army

By Nadim Kawash
Agence France Presse

ABU DHABI — Wealthy Gulf Arab states are once more toying with the idea of creating a large joint army to redress the military imbalance in the region and counter potential threats from neighbouring Iran and Iraq, defence sources in the Gulf say.

However, the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, the richest but militarily weakest in the region, say they will press ahead with plans to bolster their defence capabilities before embarking on such a costly project.

The 100,000-strong joint army, proposed by Oman after the end of the Gulf war in February 1991, is expected to be discussed by GCC army chiefs of staff when they meet in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) early next month.

Military sources said the participants would prepare a report on such a force and other issues related to defence cooperation to be presented to their defence ministers, who will meet in Abu Dhabi at a later date.

"The proposal for setting up a joint force is gaining momentum," a Gulf military source said. "The project will be discussed by the chiefs of staff and the defence ministers and recommendations would then be put forward to the GCC summit in December."

Oman floated the idea after proposed post-war security measures in the Gulf bogged down because of Iranian opposition to the presence of Syrian and Egyptian forces and its insistence on participating in such measures.

Such opposition and reservations by some members prompted Egypt and Syria to pull out their estimated 75,000 troops, who had joined a U.S.-dominated international coalition in ejecting Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

But the Omani proposal began to lose momentum when Kuwait and other GCC members opted for bilateral defence pacts with their Gulf war allies, the United States, Britain, France and other countries.

Renewed Iraqi threats and worsening ties between the GCC and Iran apparently encouraged Oman to revive the idea last month. Senior military officers from the sultan-

ate and the UAE discussed the proposed force when they visited several member states over the past few weeks, defence sources said.

GCC Secretary General Sheikh Fahim Al Qassimi underscored GCC fears of Iran and Iraq at a press conference in Washington on Friday after talks with U.S. officials.

"Iraq is still refusing to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions," he said. "It is also still harbouring hostile intentions against its neighbours."

He said Iran must resolve its island dispute with the UAE and stop interfering in GCC internal affairs if it wants better relations. "But it seems Iran is not serious," he added.

Despite a steep decline in oil revenues, GCC states Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar are allocating billions of dollars for defence purchases, mostly from the West.

They cover sophisticated aircraft, tanks, missiles and anti-submarine helicopters, which appear to be in response to Iran's acquisition of two Russian-built submarines.

Military sources said such purchases were estimated at around \$5 billion a year and would extend beyond the turn of the century.

The United States and other Western powers have encouraged the GCC to press on with the joint force, details of which have not been revealed. But defence sources believe a token GCC force, the 15,000-strong Peninsula Shield, could be a nucleus for the joint army.

Mr. Qassimi said the security measures being considered by the GCC included individual defence treaties with the West, cooperation with Syria and Egypt, and the joint army.

"The third concept envisages a deterrent force to be preceded by strengthening the capabilities of each GCC member," he said.

Before the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, GCC states had around 160,000 troops, 300 warplanes and more than 1,000 tanks.

The focus of their plans is aircraft to offset a shortage in troops after the air force proved to be a decisive factor in the allied victory against Iraq.

Iran vows to defend disputed islands

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's navy commander has vowed Saturday to defend his country's sovereignty over three strategic Gulf islands at the centre of a dispute with the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The official Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani as saying the islands were "an integral part of the country's sovereignty...and keeping them would be as important and as inevitable as safeguarding the government."

UAE officials were quoted on Monday as saying that the UAE might refer the dispute over the islands to the World Court.

Last year the UAE accused Iran of virtually annexing the island of Abu Musa, run jointly by Iran and the UAE emirate of Sharjah under a 1971 deal, after Iran expelled third country nationals working on the UAE side of the island.

Talks over the dispute collapsed last September after the UAE reiterated its claim to the Greater and Lesser Tunb islands which were seized by Iran in 1971.

The two sides were due to resume talks in Tehran this month but the UAE's minister of state for foreign affairs, Sheikh Hamdan Ben Zayed Al Nahayan, called off the visit when Iran rejected any link between Abu Musa and the other two islands.

Adm. Shamkhani also said the Western military presence in the Gulf threatened security and was designed to control the oil-rich region.

"The presence of Westerners in the Persian Gulf, under whatever pretext, is a violation of international regulations and a serious threat to the security of the region and that of regional states," Adm. Shamkhani said.

He said two submarines which Iran bought from Russia would only be used for self defence "so there is no need for regional countries to worry."

Western military sources have expressed concern about Iran's recent acquisition of the Kilo-class submarines from Russia.

The United States recently sent an attack submarine to the Gulf for manoeuvres to send a signal to Iran that the threat would be countered.

A French submarine arrived in the Gulf Saturday.



'COEXISTENCE': A Palestinian woman is seated next to Israeli soldiers in Arab East Jerusalem Saturday during the "Yom Kippur" holiday. Israel shut itself off and sealed off the occupied territories to mark the day in isolation (AFP photo)

Argentine troops in Cyprus

LARNACA (AP) — Argentine soldiers began arriving in Cyprus Saturday to serve as peacekeepers alongside British troops, their enemies in the Falklands war 11 years ago.

They join a badly depleted force that had fallen to just under 1,000 men, half the size of two years ago and inadequate to patrol the 180-kilometre buffer zone that splits the island.

The 373 Argentinians will partially replace 514 soldiers withdrawn in June by Canada, which said it was exasperated with lack of progress towards a solution of the Cyprus problem.

The first group of 73 soldiers landed at Larnaca airport and was greeted by the British chief of staff of the U.N. force in Cyprus, Brigadier Richard Lamb.

"Buenos Dias," he told the soldiers standing on the tarmac, who wore camouflage fatigues and the sky-blue berets of U.N. peacekeepers.

The arriving Argentine troops declined to speak to reporters, saying they had been told not to make any comments to the press.

But their commander, Colonel Juan Manuel Durante, sought to play down any possible friction between his men and Britain's nearly 600 peacekeepers.

"The British are soldiers and we respect soldiers," Mr. Durante told reporters. "I do not expect any trouble, on the contrary."

Argentina invaded the British-held Falkland Islands, which it calls the Malvinas, on April 2, 1982.

Kurdish rebels defy Turkish military drive

By Alistair Lyon
Reuters

VAN, Turkey — Kurdish rebels are keeping up hit-and-run attacks in east and south-east Turkey, defying sustained Turkish land and air assaults on their hideouts.

More than 1,600 people have been killed in the region since May 24 when the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) called off a two-month unilateral ceasefire unrecognized by Ankara.

Armed Forces Chief General Dogan Gures declared this month that he would snuff out the PKK's nine-year-old revolt next spring, when new anti-guerrilla forces of 60,000 enlisted soldiers and 15,000 police commandos are due to go into action.

Gen. Gures and other Turkish leaders have made such promises in the past, but the deadlines have come and gone without any sign that military force can quench the fire in the mountains.

"They will never finish the PKK this way," said a municipal official in the eastern town of Dogubeyazit, gesturing towards Mount Agri (Ararat), a frequent target of Turkish air raids. "The only thing they will finish is their own budget."

Tanks rumble along the road between the eastern towns of Van and Tatvan. Military posts dot the route which winds through hills overlooking the shimmering blue-green waters of Lake Van.

The charred hulk of a passenger bus blocks half the road in a well-wooded valley where rebels scrambled down the mountain slopes to set up a flying roadblock earlier this month.

Tatvan District Governor Mehmet Gunaydin said rebels had briefly lectured passengers on the Kurdish cause before setting fire to the bus and fleeing as armoured vehicles approached.

The PKK snatched four French tourists from a tour bus held up near the same spot in daylight on July 24. The hostages trudged around the mountains for 17 days before their release.

The PKK, which has abducted and freed 16 Westerners since July, has repeatedly warned tourists to stay away from the region, saying they indirectly fund the Turkish military.

"Any tourist group can come here," Mr. Gunaydin told reporters. "But they must inform the police what they will do and where they will go so that we can provide escorts."

He acknowledged that the avowedly Marxist separatist PKK had some backing among the townspeople of Tatvan.

"Some people support them, others fear them. Boys and girls aged 10 to 20 have been going to the mountains to join them, especially from 1990 to 1992. I don't know how many."

He said rebels ambushed a police minibus in the town a month ago, one of half a dozen recent attacks in the Tatvan district.

The PKK has mounted few big setpiece assaults on Turkish military posts since it lost important bases in northern Iraq a year ago, but has shown this year that it can still strike on a smaller scale in a dozen eastern and south-eastern provinces.

Turkish generals said last year that the cross-border operation, in which Turkish forces combined with Iraqi Kurdish guerrillas against the PKK, had "broken the spine" of the group.

Some Turkish officials maintain that the PKK is simply an international terrorist organisation backed by Syria, Iran, Iraq and Armenia. They accuse European countries of giving the PKK their tacit blessing to keep Turkey weak and divided.

"Countries like Britain, France and Germany don't want Turkey to develop or join the European Community," said Van Provincial Governor Mahmut Yilbas.

The West is cutting the branch it's sitting on. "The sources of (PKK) terrorism are mostly foreign, specially Armenian and Syrian," he said.

The PKK certainly has Syrian Kurds within its ranks and it is not impossible that it has forged links with Armenians, but local Kurdish officials say its main powerbase is inside Turkey.

"The more the state sends tanks, helicopters and troops to the region, the more the PKK's support grows," said one town mayor in Bitlis province. He asked not to be named.

"I'm a Kurd, but I don't support the PKK's demands and I'm against the use of weapons. There is a Kurdish problem in Turkey which needs a democratic, not a military, solution," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. ambassador holds talks with Kaddoumi

TUNIS (AFP) — U.S. Ambassador John MacCarthy has held talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) foreign affairs chief Farouk Kaddoumi on the Israeli-PLO agreement, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported. Mr. MacCarthy met Mr. Kaddoumi, who refused to sign the ground-breaking agreement in Washington earlier this month. The news agency reported that Mr. MacCarthy confirmed Washington's desire to hold talks with the PLO leadership, while Mr. Kaddoumi pressed for the United States to recognise the movement "officially". The U.S. State Department resumed contact with the PLO in the run-up to the signing of the Israeli-PLO accord on Sept. 13 after having broken off relations over a Palestinian attack on an Israeli beach in 1990.

Egyptian suspects to be checked for torture

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian military court ordered examinations Saturday for 11 militants who stripped to show bruises they said were inflicted during torture, security sources said. The men were among 55 men on trial for trying to restart the Jihad (holy struggle) militant group, the sources said. It was the second time defendants charged with belonging to the group have been examined by doctors after they said they had been tortured. Earlier this month, a military court in Alexandria trying another batch of men referred 19 defendants for examination. Lawyers representing two of the defendants in Saturday's hearing petitioned to have charges dropped on grounds the arrests and searches of their clients had violated police procedure. The lawyers also told the military court that confessions had been extracted from their clients under duress and torture.

Abu Dhabi destroys 30 tonnes of fish

ABU DHABI (R) — Authorities in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) emirate of Abu Dhabi Saturday destroyed 30 tonnes of fish which were poisoned by chemicals. The official Emirates news agency WAM quoted Ali Mansouri, head of the fishermen's association, as saying the fish stocked at the fish market were destroyed after samples were found to be contaminated. It did not name the contaminants. On Tuesday, Abu Dhabi authorities warned residents against eating or catching fish in the Gulf waters after they found mercury, arsenic, lead and cadmium in dead fish, dolphins, turtles and seagulls off the coast. It did not say where the substance may have come from. Newspapers on Saturday quoted officials in Abu Dhabi as saying investigations were under way to determine the cause of the contamination. They said two British scientists have arrived in Abu Dhabi to help in the probe.

Iraq to shut down southern African embassies

HARARE (AP) — Iraq is shutting down all but one of its embassies in sub-Saharan Africa for financial reasons, an Iraqi official said. Issam Mahdoub, Iraq's ambassador in Zimbabwe, cited U.N. economic sanctions against his government as the main reason for the closures. Iraq will maintain its diplomatic mission in Kenya, but embassies in Chad, Senegal and Zimbabwe will close over the next few weeks, he said in a statement. Diplomatic relations with the three nations will be maintained by Kenya-based envoys. Trade and aid embargoes imposed during the Gulf war have left Iraq with severe financial constraints and shortages of food and medicine at home. Mr. Mahdoub said, Iraq closed its embassy in Tanzania in 1991. The Iraqi mission in Zambia was closed last year after the government there accused Iraq of funding Zambian opposition groups, including ex-President Kenneth Kaunda's United National Independence Party. Mr. Kaunda, who forged close ties with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and attempted to mediate in the Gulf conflict, was ousted in elections in October 1991.

Afghan Mujahedeen office in Saudi to close

DUBAI (R) — The Afghan Mujahedeen are shutting down a liaison office in Saudi Arabia, which bankrolled the fighters who toppled Kabul's communist-backed government in April 1992. The Saudi Press Agency carried a statement from the Afghan Mujahedeen office saying the office would close on Sunday for the sake of unity. Mujahedeen factions have been battling among themselves for power since the Soviet-backed government fell. The statement thanked the kingdom for support "with people, money...and defending the rights of the Muslim Afghan people with all its strength." Saudi Arabia was a main supporter of the Afghan guerrillas in their 14-year rebellion against the former regime. It helped assure arms for the struggle and provided relief supplies for Afghan refugees and millions of dollars in financial aid.

16 killed in Algerian unrest

ALGIERS (AFP) — Eight Muslim fundamentalists were killed by security forces in an operation that followed the killing of five members of a patrol, the authorities announced Saturday. The incidents took place Thursday, the security services said, but released no details of the attack against the patrol in Suala in the western outskirts of Algiers. Two Islamic militants were killed Tuesday in 'Ain Deffa in the west of Algiers while a third was killed in Tebessa, in the east of the country, the authorities said.

Security forces kill eight in southern Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Security forces have killed eight bandits and wounded several others in a surprise operation in southern Iran, the daily Kayhan reported. The soldiers also confiscated a number of light weapons during Friday's 20-hour sweep in the Shahr Gonbad heights of Kerman province, it said. More than 100 bandits and drug traffickers have been killed in clashes with law enforcement troops in Kerman in the past few months.

Court ruling partial victory for U.S. government

By Corinne Jaquet
The Associated Press

GENEVA — In a partial victory for the U.S. government, a court has ruled that an estimated \$10 million in funds from the secret sales of U.S. arms to Iran should remain blocked in Swiss bank accounts.

Geneva's civil court threw out appeals by retired Air Force Major General Richard Secord and his business partner Albert Hakim that the accounts should be unfrozen. It cast doubt on Gen. Secord's and Mr. Hakim's ownership claims.

The ruling, obtained by the Associated Press Friday, brought the U.S. government one step closer to recovering the funds in what has become a protracted battle at all levels of

the complex Swiss legal system.

Washington earlier this week filed new lawsuits in advance of a Sept. 21 deadline by the Swiss to validate its ownership claim to the money, blocked in three Geneva banks since 1986.

The U.S. Justice Department claims the funds are proceeds from the arms sales to Iran and so belong to the U.S. government. It says Gen. Secord and Mr. Hakim received the funds while working as government agents and so have no claim to the money.

Gen. Secord and Mr. Hakim were asked by former Reagan administration aide Oliver North to carry out the arms shipments to Iran as part of the U.S. bid to win the freedom of U.S. hostages in Lebanon. They did this via foreign shell

corporations and Swiss bank accounts.

Some of the proceeds were diverted to finance the contra rebels fighting the Sandinista government in Nicaragua at a time when Congress had banned direct U.S. military aid.

The U.S. government has been forced to take its case through the civil courts since the Swiss supreme court rejected its case on procedural grounds last March. However, the court agreed to a U.S. request that the money should stay blocked temporarily.

In a judgment dated Sept. 16, the Geneva court ruled Gen. Secord's and Mr. Hakim's appeals against the freezing order were inadmissible because of the doubts about their claims to ownership. The court based its decision

on testimony by Gen. Secord in the United States that he did not intend to profit from the Iran arms sales or to use the proceeds for personal purposes.

The court said Mr. Hakim's claim to the funds was invalid because of the "civil agreement" between the businessman and the government in which he recognised the government's right to the arms sales proceeds. Mr. Hakim subsequently argued that this agreement was extra-judicial and so did not count.

Gen. Secord pleaded guilty in November 1989 to a felony count of lying to Congress during the investigation of the Iran-contra scandal. Mr. Hakim pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor of supplementing Colonel North's salary.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley 35 / 20

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Al Ghoul 780330
Dr. Jamal Al Jahari 794401
Dr. Youssef Naser 751144
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tam 830115
Firas pharmacy 601923
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637855
Nawvakh pharmacy 636722
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649445
Shmouni pharmacy 637041
Najm pharmacy 636722
Najm pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Othman 279773
Aljoudi pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Abdul Karim Khushudneh 851615
Khalil pharmacy 983023

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 601111
Civil Defence Immediate 630344
Recruiting 109
Fire Brigade 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843412
Traffic Police 896350
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 636841
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 874467
Complaints 874467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (Directory assistance) 121
Radio Jordan 010270
Central Amman Telephone 625101
Repairs 625101
Aldah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 010270
Water Authority 681011
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636881
RJ Flight Information 18-53231

Queen Alia Int. Airport 18-53231

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81301332
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642810
AKHED Maternity, J. Amn. 6424102
Jabal Amman Maternity 642360
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine Shmouni 6417114
Shmouni Hospital 640131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushter Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Ab-Abi, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7710103
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marka 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 60234050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital 089983333
Zarqa National Hospital 09190550
Ibn Sina Hospital 091986732
Al Ikra Modern Hospital 09194891
Feroos Banaa Hospital 02275555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02272275
Ibn Al Nafaa Hospital 02271702
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 081314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)532315, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:15 Sanaa (RJ)
09:30 Damascus (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)
10:15 Riyadh (RJ)
10:30 Cairo, Agiba (RJ)
10:30 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:55 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 New Delhi (RJ)
16:00 Cairo (RJ)
16:00 Bangkok (RJ)
20:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
06:45 Moscow (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Aden (HY)
11:15 Khartoum (SO)

13:30 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
15:40 Istanbul (TK)
17:40 Amsterdam (KL)
20:35 Cairo (MS)
21:45 Beirut (RJ)
22:05 Vienna, Luban (JL)
01:45 Doha (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Beirut (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:15 London (RJ)
13:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
14:30 Cairo (RJ)
15:00 Moscow (RJ)
15:00 Doha (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:45 Damascus (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 Istanbul (TA)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
12:15 Khartoum (SD)
12:35 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
16:35 Doha (KL)
18:30 Istanbul (TA)
21:35 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in lbs per kg.

Apple 60/50
Banana 68
Banana (Mukimmar) 62
Beet 61/50
Cabbage 140/80
Carrot 61/50
Cauliflower 250/30
Cucumbers (large) 140/70
Cucumbers (small) 250/100
Eggplant 240/100
Figs 250/100
Garlic 850/65
Grapes 240/20
Guava 620/50
Lemon 210/100
Marrow (large) 250/100
Marrow (small) 190/80
Mushrooms 90/70
Okra 240/100
Onion (dry) 240/100
Pepper (hot) 240/100
Pepper (sweet) 240/100
Potato 400/30
Tomato 170/90
Sweet melon 240/100
Watermelon 140/100



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday meets with Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs officials at King Abdullah Mosque in Amman (Petra photo)

Majali urges cooperation with Islamic African, Asian nations

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday urged the Ministry of Awqaf and its affiliated departments to help Islamic African and Asian countries spread Islamic teachings.

He said Jordan's cooperation with Islamic nations in Asia and Africa in this area should be conducted through and in coordination with the ministry of awqaf.

Dr. Majali was speaking at a meeting held at the King Abdullah Mosque in Amman, attended by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi and directors

of the awqaf department. Referring to the zakat fund (Islamic income tax), Dr. Majali said that the ministry, which supervises the fund, should re-examine the way in which it offers financial help to the poor.

Referring to administrative procedures, Dr. Majali urged the ministry staff to cut down on routine work and facilitate procedures.

The government is going ahead with decentralisation which, he said, aimed at involving the local community in decision-making in cooperation with the governors.

Centralisation, said the prime minister, tends to impede the work of the government and its various ministries. Referring to the work of mosque preachers, he said that Friday sermons should tackle religious issues and matters of concern to the public, and should help find solutions to problems in spiritual and secular matters.

The prime minister toured an exhibition held at the mosque displaying shrines of the Companions of the Prophet Mohammad, Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

New labs to diagnose diseases, food poisoning

AMMAN (Petra) — The creation of advanced central laboratories for the diagnosis of diseases or food poisoning is underway, announced Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Sunday.

This is part of ongoing efforts by the ministry to help control the quality of medical management, a field which is relatively new in Jordan, but which is of great importance, said the minister in an opening address at the first conference

to be held in Jordan on quality control of bio-chemical analysis.

The conference, organised in Jordan by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in cooperation with the health ministry, is attended by delegates from Jordan and 10 other Near Eastern nations.

The three-day event is scheduled to review research papers on WHO's role in developing national laboratories,

laboratory technology, programmes to ensure quality control in laboratory work and other relevant topics.

Meanwhile, Dr. Malhas requested the media not to publish any health-related advertisements without first obtaining the written approval of the health ministry.

The ministry's request follows an advertisement placed by food importing companies about cholesterol-free meat,

King hints at delaying polls

(Continued from page 1)

doesn't necessarily mean that all. We are talking about dual nationality at some stage.

Jordan has floated the idea of dual nationality for Palestinians within Arab countries. Jordanian officials say such a move would have to be a collective decision by the Arab League.

On proposals for a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation, the monarch said that "talks should start soon, but final linkage can't start until there is a Palestine."

Turning to what sort of ties the envisioned Palestinian state would have with Jordan, the 57-year-old monarch said: "The idea is confederation — or any other name — but it is something that the Palestinian side seems to be committed to, and I believe it will naturally happen."

King Hussein went on to voice "great concern that the (Jordanian) electoral campaign should not be derailed by those who are for or against" the autonomy deal.

Reaffirming his backing for the accord, the monarch praised the "courageous and responsible stand" of the Israeli leadership and said it had been "far-sighted."

But if the Middle East peace process fails, "it will be a disaster to the area and beyond," the King warned.

The monarch cautioned that for Amman there were still "considerable problems to be addressed, not only bilaterally but in the context of the region," especially on water-sharing, refugees and regional cooperation.

"We hope to see progress equally on Syrian and Lebanese tracks. If Syria stops, it doesn't keep Jordan from

moving ahead with more questions to be addressed," he added.

King Hussein said Jordan, which signed an agenda for peace talks with Israel on Sept. 14, had more problems to solve with Jewish state than Syria.

King Hussein suggested separating the religious and political questions about the future of Jerusalem as a way for Israelis and Arabs to solve one of the hardest problems in their quest for peace.

"Jerusalem is the essence of peace between us," the King said.

"I don't know what will happen. Maybe there is a division between the religious aspect of the problem and other aspects of the problem, so that on the demographic aspect Jerusalem can hopefully be the capital of both sides."

King Hussein said that protecting the rights of Muslims, Christians and Jews and their holy shrines in Jerusalem could also ease the threats Islamic extremists pose to the stability of their own countries — and to the rest of the world.

The return of Jerusalem, one of Islam's holiest cities after Mecca, is a sacred call to battle by Iran's Islamic revolutionary government and by increasingly militant Muslim organisations in the swath of Arab states stretching across North Africa, the Middle East and into Asia.

King Hussein said ties with Gulf states angered by Jordan's stand after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, were slowly improving — except with Kuwait.

Princess Basma calls for balance between natural resources, population

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday called for striking a balance between natural resources and population.

Addressing the opening session of a symposium on birth spacing, Princess Basma said Jordan has approved a national birth spacing programme which is based on tenets compatible with the teachings of Islam.

The Princess said the average population growth rate in Jordan is 3.4 per cent, one of the highest worldwide.

She noted that the natural growth rate has increased as a result of population growth and the successive migrations of people to Jordan.

Princess Basma stressed the importance of the birth spacing programme, saying it seeks to ensure conformity between human and economic resources as a prelude to achieving balanced social development.

The Princess called for speeding up work on formulating the national population

strategy, noting that it will be a great help to development planners and decision makers.

Labour Minister Khalid Al Ghazawi said the national birth spacing programme is one of the activities of the national population committee, adding that it can contribute to expanding medical services to cover maternal and child health.

He stressed the importance of human resources in comprehensive development.

Mr. Ghazawi said that Jordan has exceeded the normal global population growth rate and he highlighted the direct relation between growth rate and income levels.

The rapid population growth rate and the significant increase in the labour force makes it difficult, if not impossible, to ease problems of unemployment and poverty, said the minister.

Secretary General of the National Population Committee Nabih Salameh said the



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday addresses the opening of a symposium on birth spacing and mother and child care (Petra photo)

programme is important because health affects the fabric of family and society.

He said that Islamic law and other monotheistic faiths have called for allowing the mother

and child enough time for care through birth spacing.

Mr. Salameh stressed the importance of health education in achieving the goals of the birth spacing programme.

Awqaf Minister Abdul Salam Al Abbadi lauded the programme for its observance of the various religious, educational, health and psychological dimensions.

Karak to get mill, slaughterhouse

KARAK (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply has decided to set up a flour mill in Karak governorate at an expected cost of JD 12 million, in addition to a poultry slaughterhouse and refrigerated warehouse at an overall cost of JD 8 million, Minister of Supply Rami Ibrahim announced Sunday.

The ministry is also planning to build supply warehouses in the southern Jordan Valley area, south of the Dead Sea for the benefit of residents there, the minister said at an open meeting held in Karak.

The meeting was attended by the ministers of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Water and Irrigation, Transport, Communications and Postal Affairs and Public Works and Housing, who briefed the local audience on various projects.

Mr. Ibrahim said plans have also been made to set up poultry slaughterhouses in Amman and Irbid.

Minister of Public Works and Housing Khalaf Hawati outlined the road repair campaign underway in the Karak governorate and said a tender has been floated for the construction of a four-lane road linking Karak with Oataneh, east of Karak.

He said the ministry plans to connect the road linking the southern regions of the Jordan Valley with Al Shafa through a modern network.

Referring to housing, he said, the Housing Corporation is studying the construction of 7,500 units in Jordan of which 750 will be built in Karak governorate.

At the outset of the meeting, Karak Governor Khalaf Mahasneh discussed the projects assigned for the governorate, including the sports stadium in Karak City.

The mayor addressed the meeting urging the concerned departments to speed up the construction of the cultural centre and to find solutions to the traffic congestion problems in the city.

Notables and heads of local councils in the Karak area attended the meeting.

Ministry, centre work to determine probability of congenital disabilities

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Diagnostic Centre for Early Detection of Handicaps (DCEHD) is taking steps to help stem the growing number of disabilities among children in Jordan, according to the centre's director, Usama Badran.

In positive diagnoses of such cases, he said, the mother is given professional assistance.

The DCEHD, in cooperation with Al Bashir Hospital, has started to conduct diagnoses of congenital dislocation of the hips on newborns.

According to the centre's records since 1989, 2,662 children aged between one year and 16 have been diagnosed as suffering from various disabilities.

To further develop its services, Dr. Badran said, the centre plans to set up a genetic laboratory and install a mobile unit to treat schoolchildren in remote areas who suffer from hearing problems.

He said the earlier the dis-

ability is discovered the easier it is to treat it.

A health ministry official told the Jordan Times that the DCEHD services for couples planning to marry will be free of charge.

It is hoped, said the official, that with adequate media promotion of such services would attract increasing numbers of people, although at the beginning the numbers are expected to be limited.

He said that intermarriages in Jordan are responsible for many of the disabilities among children.

He added that no official survey has been conducted to determine the number of disabilities among Jordanian children. Such an endeavour, he said, would take years to conduct and would require close cooperation from the Department of Statistics and the Ministry of Social Development.

Chemical engineers to hold first Jordanian conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Next month the University of Jordan will host a three-day chemical engineering conference to be attended by 300 participants from Jordan and foreign countries.

Among the delegates to the conference, due to open on Oct. 18, is a group of 80 researchers and scientists, according to Riyadh Abu Hazim, the conference spokesman.

He said the conference, the first in Jordan, is organised by the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) in cooperation

with the engineering departments of the University of Jordan and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

It will treat engineering and technical issues closely related to chemical industries and seek to promote the role of engineers in industry, biotechnology and the use of computers.

Several working papers will be reviewed including papers on quality control, design and control and development of chemical industries, said Mr.

Abu Hazim.

He said the conference is supported by major local companies, including the Industrial Development Bank, the Arab Potash Company, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, the Jordan Cement Factories Company and the pharmaceutical firms operating in the Kingdom.

On the sidelines of the conference, a four-day exhibition by several major firms will be organised, displaying equipment and materials as well as Jordanian chemical products.

JSCEP event to tackle Zarqa environmental issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP), in cooperation with the German Friedrich Naumann Foundation, is organising a two-day environmental activity in Yajouz, Zarqa, at the Vocational Training Centre (VTC) on Monday and Tuesday.

A JSCEP statement Sunday said the activities will include a visit by VTC students to the mobile exhibition which aims

to create environmental awareness and educate the students.

Lectures on environmental issues and environmental films will also be presented, said the statement.

On Monday, an environmental evening session in the form of a panel discussion will be held. Representatives from the public and private sectors in the area and interested individuals are invited to participate.

The session, which will tackle the problem of the Russeifeh dumping site — the biggest in Jordan.

Up to 85 per cent of the country's solid waste is dumped at this site.

Experts from various public institutes will deliver lectures on the different environmental, health and legal aspects of the Russeifeh dump.

The evening session will start at 5 p.m.

Decision (Continued from page 1)

complexity of the issue at hand.

Supporters of postponing the poll brush aside these arguments saying democracy is not just about holding parliamentary elections, adding that the demographic and political uncertainties created by the PLO-Israel deal justify delaying the polls.

The King has the constitutional right to postpone the elections in extraordinary situations and upon the recommendation of the cabinet.

Legal experts told the Jordan Times that the Constitution empowers the King to postpone the elections without having to recall the previous parliament in accordance with Article 73, item 4 of the Constitution.

The article says: "... The King has the right to postpone holding general elections if

there were extraordinary circumstances under which the Cabinet believes that holding the elections is not possible."

Item 2 of the same article says if elections are not held within four months from the time at which the Parliament was dissolved, the "dissolved Parliament regains all its constitutional authorities and convenes immediately as if its dissolution did not take place and continues in session until a new (Lower House of) Parliament is elected."

King Hussein issued a Royal Decree dissolving the 11th parliament on Aug. 4.

"The King has two options. He has the constitutional right to reconvene the previous parliament or not," prominent lawyer Taher Hikmat told the Jordan Times Sunday.

Former Deputy Fares Al Nabulsi supported Mr. Hikmat's interpretation of the Constitution, recalling that the King cited Article 73 Item 4 of

the Constitution to dissolve Parliament in 1974.

Minister of Information Ma'n Abu Nowar also said the King has the option of reconvening the previous Parliament or not if a decision to postpone the polls is taken.

He said if the legal period for holding the elections passed without holding them or issuing a Royal Decree postponing them, then the previous Parliament will automatically reconvene. But if the King issues a Royal Decree postponing the polls, he said, then he has the right to either call the previous Parliament into session or not.

Dr. Abu Nowar said "nothing is imminent" in relation to postponing the polls.

If there was a change in attitude (towards holding the polls on the scheduled date), a Royal Decree to that effect will be issued. If not, the government will hold the elections as planned," he said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of products by UNRWA-run women's programme centres (including embroidery, handicrafts, and greeting cards) at the Professional Association Complex (9 a.m. - 6 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Eastern Dancing — Entertainment in Spare Time" by Sigrid Benesemann at Goethe Institute.
- ★ Art exhibition of old and new paintings from private collections by Samia Zaru at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ The First International Festival of Fine Arts in Jordan entitled "Colour and Light in the Nabatean Civilisation" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in Jordan.
- ★ Art exhibition of paintings on Petra by British artist Caroline Dobson at the British Council.
- ★ Iraqi Art Festival at the Alia Art Gallery
- ★ Exhibition of paintings and photographic pictures of old Baghdad by Nadim Mohsin at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Permanent exhibition of 58 artists and "Chair" Exhibition at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hamid Shousan Foundation in Jabal Lweibdeh (10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Fridays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.). Tel. 643251-2

FILM

- ★ Film entitled: "The Beastly Franz Biss" at the Goethe Institute at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "Return to Shana Bus Stop" by Dr. Graham Philip at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7:00 p.m.

Arafat sees independence in 3 years

(Continued from page 1)

Israel. Mr. Arafat said "I am not here to give any signal concerning this point."

He said it was important "not to forget that this is now only the first step and we have to look forward to the final situation, the lasting, comprehensive, peaceful solution, to the implementation on the ground of this agreement, the final status for Jerusalem."

Mr. Arafat was scheduled to meet British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg, on his return to Tunis, said his adviser Bassam Abu Sherif.

On Saturday Palestine and Turkey signed their first joint agreement on cooperation in culture, education and sci-

ences.

The agreement will allow Turkey to "contribute to the formation of the State of Palestine in the areas of culture and sciences," Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said.

Mr. Hikmet and the "Palestinian interim minister of foreign affairs and education," Yasser Amr, signed the accord as Mr. Arafat and Turkish President Suleyman Demirel looked on.

The document was the first ever signed between Turkey and Palestine as a national entity.

The PLO leader was on his fourth visit to Turkey since 1979 and the first since signing the agreement with Israel on autonomy.

Jordan Times

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Confusion ought to go

WHETHER ELECTIONS will be held this November, sometime next year or indefinitely postponed is a decision that the leadership of this country will have to take very soon.

To this effect, we welcome His Majesty King Hussein's pronouncement Saturday that a final decision will be announced before Wednesday. The significance of a speedy resolution of the issue cannot be overemphasised since the ongoing procrastination over it has not helped the country or its people to reduce or end the confusion that has reigned supreme.

According to information available to this newspaper, the government is about ready with a recommendation to postpone the elections, which will be accepted by the King. There are indeed several legitimate concerns and justifications that could be used to buttress the arguments in favour of such a step. The Monarch has spoken about some of the fears that would be associated with holding the next election on schedule. "It will be a chance for anyone to enter the arena and harm the picture of (democracy and national unity) of this united family," the King said in an interview Saturday. Then there is the issue of double voting that some Jordanians of Palestinian origin may exercise for the election of the proposed Palestinian national council. Who is a Jordanian and who is not once the Palestinian entity takes up a more fixed and coherent form is also a concern that needs to be addressed.

But these submissions and other arguments in favour of postponement do not in our opinion outweigh the advantages of upholding the pledge to hold elections on time. The country cannot put on hold its democratic course on assumptions and speculations pertaining to the future that may or may not occur. The nation must proceed with its life as it is presently constituted and not on what may or may not happen in the future. Jordanians of all origins and opinions must be allowed the opportunity of casting their votes to elect their representatives because they have worked painstakingly to attain parliamentary democracy. They are not about to give up all the achievements of the past four years because of anxieties that may prove to be groundless in the end. We have a Constitution and laws that are adequate enough to safeguard the national unity of the country. Strict application of the law should be more than enough to abort any attempt to threaten or undermine our unity and well-being.

As for the fears connected with double voting for some Jordanians of Palestinian background who may opt to vote as well in the West Bank, the answer should be rather simple. This part of the Jordanian people should be invited to make a clear choice before they even cast their votes here in Jordan: Voting here means not voting there. Voting there shall mean not voting here. Current laws are sufficient to deal with this dimension of the equation. Furthermore, we do not need to be apologetic about what we have to do in this domain. As a matter of fact the government has already made this issue clear when it announced that Jordanians who wish to remain Jordanian cannot have their cake and eat it too.

Jordan has a stake in staying on the democratic track even if the risks and odds are high. We have faith in the ability of Jordanians whatever their roots are to remain sober when they vote, whenever the date. We must not let the majority of our people down because a small minority may wish to rock the boat.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS clear that the world community is now planning to pour financial assistance to the self-rule government in the occupied Palestinian city of Jericho and the Gaza Strip, said Sawt Al Shaah Arabic daily Sunday. The U.S. has pledged to make available \$250 million over the coming two years and the International Monetary Fund has estimated that the \$3 billion would be needed for the occupied territories at the initial stage, said the paper. Furthermore, the U.S. officials continue to call for support for the peace process and the PLO-Israeli agreement, urging the European Community, Japan and the Gulf states to provide financial assistance for the success of this accord, added the paper. These officials and the current campaign to provide help to the PLO-Israeli deal have totally ignored Jordan's role in the peace process and Jordan's burdens carried over the past four decades as a result of the Arab-Israeli wars and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of refugees living on its territory, said the daily. The paper said that ignoring Jordan's role and the country's sacrifices over the past decades and overlooking the immense material losses the country incurred as a result of the developments and the conflicts in the region would not be conducive to the peace process and would not contribute towards ensuring stability and security in the region. The paper said that the world community ought to make ample allocations for Jordan, compensating the country for the sufferings, the economic difficulties and the huge losses it had incurred over the years. Furthermore, the world community should also come to the aid of Jordan, which is reeling under the effects of the U.N.-imposed embargo on Iraq, demanded the paper.

Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

Words, or lack of them, that could cost us dearly

MY COLUMN last week has elicited comments from some people, who asked for an elaboration on my critique of the language used in Paragraph 5 of the Jordanian-Israeli half-agenda-half declaration of principles deal.

I hasten therefore to offer my thoughts on the subject. It will be recalled that the drafters of the said paragraph used the following wording on the issue of borders between Jordan and Israel: "Settlement of territorial matters and agreed definitive delimitation and demarcation of the territorial boundary between Jordan and Israel with reference to the boundary definition under the Mandate, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE STATUS OF ANY TERRITORIES THAT CAME UNDER ISRAELI MILITARY GOVERNMENT CONTROL IN 1967. I expressed earlier my reservations about the use of this terminology beginning with the words "without prejudice" to the end of the line.

Let me state at the outset that legal drafting is distinguishable from normal or ordinary expression of ideas or principles in the sense that extra efforts are made to use precise language at every opportunity even at the expense of repetition to the point of boredom. The main purpose of proper legal drafting is to avoid vagueness by an overdose of clarity at every juncture. Laymen, not well versed in legal drafting, do not normally appreciate the legal style of writing and often find it cumbersome and tedious. But this is where lawyers make a living by mastering the art of legal drafting.

Without pretending for a moment that I have mastered the art of drafting, my modest legal training in the U.S. has empowered me to see a pitfall in languages that purport to express important legal principles when there is one. Of course I stand to be corrected since even lawyers cannot agree among themselves on the "perfect" terminology to express a point that pertains to legal obligation or responsibility.

I trust what the two sides in the Jordanian-Israeli accord wanted to say is that the international boundaries between Jordan and Israel are those handed down by the British Mandate but without such mandate demarcations affecting in a detrimental way the status of the territories occupied by Israel in 1967. On the face of it there is not much wrong in such a descriptive portrayal of Jordanian-Israeli boundaries except to the extent of leaving the status of the occupied territories without definitive classification. It is one thing to say that Jordanian-Israeli frontiers will not prejudice the status of the occupied territories and quite another to stipulate that the status of these occupied territories is Arab or Palestinian or Jordanian, whatever the case may be, and must not be prejudiced by these international boundaries.

My amendment to the language used for this purpose is simply to add the following wording at the end of the language already used so as to read as follows: "...without prejudice to

the status of any territories that came under Israeli military government control in 1967 AS AN ARAB-OR PALESTINIAN-OR JORDANIAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY (depending on what we want to call them) SUBJECT TO U.N. RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338."

The purpose of my amendment is to make sure that the status of the occupied territories is not hanging in the air as if they were some sort of disputed territories, something that Israel always maintained, but rather as occupied territories whose status is Arab or Palestinian or Jordanian.

This is therefore where I differ from the present formulation of Article 5 of the Jordanian-Israeli accord. I say this notwithstanding the incorporation of the reference to U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 in the chapeau part of the deal since proper legal construction would necessitate the incorporation of these critical resolutions every step of the way for greater clarity and less ambiguity.

It is quite possible that the Jordanian negotiating team has called for such an elaboration of Article 5 but their demands were not accepted by the Israeli side. I can understand and appreciate the need for compromise during the negotiating process, but I would not expect a compromise over such pivotal issues that should not have been controversial in the first place unless, of course, we had yielded to the Israeli thesis that the occupied territories are disputed territories whose status has yet to be determined in the course of the next rounds. I would have thought that the status of the occupied territories was clear from our vantage point of view that it presents one of three main pillars of the Jordanian policy. With this in mind, I found that the language in Article 5 in particular is woefully lacking.

Let us should forget, lack of diligence on the part of Arab representatives at the time of drafting and adopting U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 in 1967 had cost the Arab side dearly. The absence of one word "the" in the English text of that resolution, concerning Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war, has effectively deprived the Arab side of an iron clad assurance that Israeli withdrawal from these territories must be total and complete.

The Arab parties need to be extra careful with the drafting procedure in future peace talks with Israel in order to avoid irreversible pitfalls as the ones that occurred in the aftermath of the 1967 war. No matter how clear our intentions are and how good the intentions of the other side may appear, it is always necessary to take extra care in drafting the respective thoughts of the two sides in a bid to avoid the kind of vagueness or confusion that normally arises when the selection of the wording is not done meticulously from a legal perspective.

Palestinians must have the right to exist before coexisting

By Sam Bahour

Returning from a four month stay in Palestine just twenty days before the historic Rabin-Arafat handshake, I was surprised at the degree of media euphoria concerning the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Thomas Friedman wrote in the New York Times of Sept. 5, that the Israel-PLO agreement was "...nothing less than the Israeli Balfour Declaration for the Palestinians..."

Americans who have worked with me throughout the years on promoting peace and justice for the Palestinian people have sighed with relief while congratulating me on the "beginning" of peace in the Middle East. All this excitement and hope comes because two eternal enemies shook hands on the lawn of the White House.

Politically, Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman Arafat agreed to sign the recent accord because Mr. Arafat first agreed to explicitly recognise the state of Israel and its right to exist in peace and security on the land of historic Palestine. In return, Mr. Arafat received a hasty one-sentence letter from Mr. Rabin recognising that the PLO is the representative of the Palestine people. The exchange of mutual recognition that preceded the signing of the accord does not astound me, but the lack of concrete political and geographical concessions from Israel does.

The hopes, desires and most importantly the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, both those residing under Israeli occupation and those living in the diaspora, are not represented in the text of the declaration. I do not belittle the significance of the Arafat-Rabin meeting. It was evident that some drastic step was needed to change the existing reality of a military occupation that was only becoming more suppressive and brutal in an era when human, national and political rights seem increasingly important. So why am I sceptically cautious about the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles?

Before Israel recognised the PLO, it required the Palestinians to nullify all parts of the Palestinian National Covenant that referred negatively to the state of Israel. This covenant is an internal PLO only document that over the years has naturally been superseded by various decisions and statements. Not to mention that only the Palestine National Congress has the authority to amend the covenant, no one ever suggested that the state of Israel amend its internal unifying document, the Zionist

ideology, which believes "Greater Israel" is from the Nile to the Euphrates. The Palestinian National Covenant is similar to the U.S. Constitution or the U.S. Declaration of Independence, which, by the way, speaks aggressively against the British and the native Americans, but which we celebrate every July 4 and are never asked to amend. Nevertheless, if one party is required to amend their internal unifying document the other should be required to do the same.

The declaration itself makes no commitment on behalf of Israel to end, now or at some time in the future, the source of the conflict: occupation. Although the declaration speaks of a detailed timetable to transfer authority of some spheres of Palestinian life and to redeploy Israeli troops and "withdraw" from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, it does not deal with the essence of the 26 years of illegal Israeli occupation translated through continued land confiscation, building of illegal settlements, economic and military blockade on Jerusalem, thousands of prisoners being tortured and similar actions. Without Israel first acknowledging that it is an occupying force, then committing itself to end the occupation, we will only be entering into another cycle of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Furthermore, the majority of the issues that deal with any type of concrete authority and rights that are to be transferred to the Palestinians is couched in the accord with a joint Israeli-Palestinian committee to discuss and work out the details. Crucial issues such as electricity, water, security, the Gaza port, banking, export issues, environmental issues and land issues are to be negotiated by the two sides.

Jewish American political scientist and activist, Ned Hanauer, executive director of Search for Justice and Equality in Palestine/Israel, said regarding this dangerous arrangement: "When negotiations take place between the strong and the weak the result reflects the power balance, not equity and international law, unless a third party intervenes on behalf of the weak party, in this case the Palestinians."

The Palestinians I spoke with this summer, from Nablus to Jerusalem to the Gaza Strip,

were all gasping for a change in their situation. Nearly suffocating from 26 years of an internationally condemned occupation, I can understand the response to the accord signing by dancing in the streets and the joy and hope that the future may bring brighter days. But even the celebrations of the accord were muted only five days after the signing, when the Israelis issued an order fining any Palestinian who displays the flag of Palestine \$150.

The declaration of Principles also states that both parties will promote a "Marshall Plan" for the region. It seems that President Clinton has embraced this concept with both arms and is calling for the countries of the world to give their share to peace in the Middle East by donating funds to build a Palestinian infrastructure.

It has become apparent that the Clinton administration has a shallow understanding of the PLO as it stands today. When the U.S. announced the Marshall Plan for Europe, as Malcolm Forbes Jr. wrote in Forbes Magazine on March 18, 1991: "The U.S. made sure to pump in capital in a way that went to revive economies rather than to build government bureaucracies. Moreover, Europe had the institutions... to make good use of this money."

The timing of this agreement comes when the PLO is on the brink of bankruptcy. Mr. Arafat's mass organisations and institutions have been largely defunct ever since withdrawing from Lebanon in 1982. Two of Mr. Arafat's top advisors recently resigned from the PLO Executive Committee claiming lack of democracy within the PLO leadership.

The continued Israeli brutality, combined with Mr. Arafat's crippled leadership, is also creating a shift towards fundamentalism in the occupied territories. Edward Said wrote in the Sept. 20 issue of the Nation: "I admire those few Palestinian officials who bravely aver that this may be the first step towards ending the occupation, but anyone who knows the increasingly slapdash, not to say irresponsible, methods of Arafat's leadership — its lack of care, precision and seriousness — is better advised to start working for a

different future."

The historic handshake in Washington was not accompanied by a historic consensus in Palestine and Israel. Peace is not made between two people but rather between two peoples. Unless the Palestinian and Israeli peoples have viable and democratic institutions to express and act on their opinions, we can only expect their frustrations to be displayed in the streets of their communities.

The Clinton administration would be wrong to jump on the euphoric bandwagon without analysing the essence of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Our administration should also recognise that the situation only got to the brink of disaster because the U.S. Congress has been under the heavy influence of the pro-Israeli lobby since 1967. If it were not for the over \$4 billion that the U.S. has been granting Israel every year, the occupation would have never ripened.

Instead of the leading superpower taking a principled stand against occupation, our government continued to take cues from Israel when it came to employing a foreign policy in the Middle East. The time has come for the U.S. to support and recognise the state of Palestine in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip.

In the past, the U.S. delayed opening a relationship with the PLO because Israel, a partner in the conflict, refused. Today, the Palestinian people must be given the opportunity to use the Declaration of Principles to realise Palestinian statehood, and the U.S. could play a positive role if it were to take the lead and support a two state solution, a secure and independent Israel, side by side with a secure and independent Palestine. Without this end result, the refugee in the Gaza Strip that was expelled from his home in Haifa in 1948 and forced to live for over forty years in a squalid refugee camp will remain a refugee, with the world telling him he is better off now because he is a refugee under Palestinian rule. Mr. Arafat, President Clinton or Prime Minister Rabin may be able to look a refugee in the eye and tell him that he is going to remain a refugee; I cannot.

The writer is a Palestinian American activist who frequently takes American eyewitness delegations to Palestine and Israel. He recently completed co-editing a book entitled "Homeland: Oral Histories of Palestine and Palestinians." He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

The future belongs to Asians

By Kishore Mahbubani

SINGAPORE — We are coming to the end of a 500-year cycle of global domination by western civilisation. With the arrival of the 21st century, we will probably move into the period of greatest change in the history of man.

Until the 15th or 16th centuries, the West was basically confined to the European continent. Then the Portuguese, a tiny insignificant people today, went around the world, establishing colonies in South America, Africa and Asia. They were followed by the Dutch, the French and finally the British, who established the most far-flung empire ever seen.

As a consequence of this global explosion, the West has left its traces in almost every corner of the world. The residues of western influence remain despite the end of colonialism. Contemporary South American culture and civilisation have European roots. The political boundaries of Africa today were drawn by Europeans. Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States are descendants of Anglo-Saxon civilisation.

Virtually all of Asia, with the exception of Thailand, was either colonised or invaded by western powers. Even Japan, the most successful Asian society so far, aspires mainly to be a member of the western club. This global impact is no mean feat. In retrospect, it is amazing that the few hundred million people living in Europe could touch billions of lives.

But Europe has finally become tired. The sheer effort of maintaining global empires and influence has exhausted the continent. Nothing demonstrates this more vividly than the inability of Europe to put out a fire burning on its own doorstep, the fire in Bosnia. The tragedy of Bosnia is not only about Serbs, Croats and Bosnian Muslims. It is fundamentally about the curtain falling on the greatest act of history.

As this curtain falls, a new drama will emerge. It would be foolish for me to pretend that I know what is coming but there are a few clues. The first is that instead of the end of history, we will see the return of history. A clear signal of the footslogging that had engulfed many in the West following the collapse of communism in Europe, the breakup of the Soviet Union and

the end of the cold war was their infatuation with an essay which suggested that history was ending with the triumph of the western idea. Instead we will see the retreat of the western idea, as old and rich civilisations elsewhere regain their self-confidence to discover their own roots. They will not shake off all that the West has given them, but they will learn to be selective in keeping western ideas.

Many young Asians will be excited at the prospect of living through a period of enormous historical change. But they should be prepared for a certain confusion. I was born in 1948 in Singapore, then a British colony. When I was in primary school, we were taken by bus to Government House to wave a British flag, sing "God Save the Queen" and welcome the British governor-general to Singapore. One of my school classmates told me then that when he grew up he wanted to go to London. I asked why. He replied, "Because the streets there must have gold."

Looking at London today, it seems strange that a young boy in the 1950s could harbour such beliefs. But as London's fortunes ebbed, another city rose to take its place: Washington. When I was posted there as a diplomat in 1982, I went with a clear sense that I was going to the Rome of the 20th century. And it was. Every major global decision had to be examined or ratified in Washington (together with the lesser Rome of that time, Moscow). But at the time things were going, it is doubtful that Washington will be the Rome of the 21st century.

One practical consequence of this turn in the cycle of history is that Asians may have to change some of the mental maps they inherited from their student textbooks and from newspapers and television. They should banish the thought that answers to critical global questions can be found only in New York, London or Paris. In future, those answers are equally likely to be found in Shanghai, Tokyo, Jakarta, Bombay or perhaps even Singapore.

The writer is deputy secretary in Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a former ambassador to the United Nations. This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

Eclipsed by Bosnia and Somalia, boat people languish in obscurity

By John Leicester
 The Associated Press

HONG KONG — Born, raised and imprisoned behind barbed wire, some children in Whitehead detention centre call all animals rats, rats being the only animals they see regularly.

They are the boat children, descendants of the Vietnamese boat people who once captured the world's sympathy but are now eclipsed by refugee tragedies in Somalia and Yugoslavia.

They, too, live in dismal conditions, but there is no international outcry.

"It's a problem that has been sliding down the political agenda of all governments," explained Robert van Leeuwen, Hong Kong chief of mission for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

As if to underline the message, Vietnamese were told in July that those who stay on after failing to win asylum will not only be forcibly repatriated, but will lose a third of the \$360 grant allotted to help them resettle in Vietnam.

The boat people began turning up on Southeast Asian shores in 1975, after U.S.-backed South Vietnam fell to the communist North. In all, 1.5 million fled their country. Hong Kong alone has taken nearly 200,000, and its patience has run out.

"It has been an untold burden," said Brian Bresnahan, the Hong Kong government official in charge of refugees. Since 1988, to discourage arrivals, Hong Kong has given refugee status only to the 15 per cent who can prove a justified fear of persecution at home. Human rights groups are critical, saying genuine refugees are being sent back. The Hong Kong government denies this.

Hong Kong began forced evacuations in 1989, and hopes to close its camps in 1996, a year before China takes over the British colony.

The effect of forced repatriation, coupled with Vietnam's improving economy, is dramatic. New arrivals plunged from more than 20,000 in 1991 to just 12 last year.

The first forced evacuation, in which Vietnamese were dragged screaming onto a plane, provoked worldwide criticism. Although expulsions continue with scant publicity — 376 people so far this year — fear of more bad headlines has made Hong Kong reluctant to expel them en masse. Instead it hopes most will return voluntarily.

Whitehead, the largest camp, holds 21,000 people behind a 5-metre-high barbed wire fence, out of sight of Hong Kong's gleaming skyline. Camp workers say some Vietnamese are severely depressed after years without freedom. Suicide attempts reportedly are frequent.

Half of Whitehead's 7,000 children attend school, the youngest in a classroom made from freight containers.

Hildeguna Vollset, a Norwegian volunteer teacher, said children often have learning difficulties because they know little of life outside and are traumatised by the violence around them.

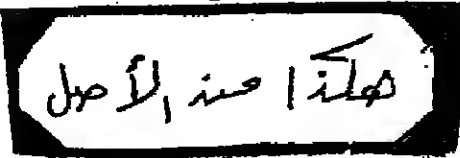
Violent crime, gambling, criminal gangs, prostitution and drug abuse are rampant, according to Mr. Bresnahan. The surroundings are certainly grim. Searchlights scout the camp at night. Loudspeakers shatter the morning calm. By noon the heat turns the iron huts into ovens.

North and South Vietnamese, still nursing rivalries from the Vietnam war, are separated. Last year, 24 North Vietnamese in the Shek Kong camp died when South Vietnamese set fire to their hut in a dispute over hot water.

Sarmukh Singh, Whitehead's chief warden, showed a crate filled with confiscated swords, knives and homemade gas masks and shields for resisting police during riots.

The camp has quieted since the last riot in 1991 and settled into grim resignation, he said. Nearly all in Whitehead have failed the refugee test, but still cling to the dream that somehow those American gates will open and they will go marching through.

Mr. Bresnahan said. Camp life is so tough that it makes repatriation attractive to some Vietnamese.



Planet dearth — do we want to destroy our source of subsistence?

By Edward O. Wilson

IMAGINE THAT on an icy moon of Jupiter — say, Ganymede — the space station of an alien civilisation is concealed. For millions of years its scientists have watched the earth. They have mapped the spread of large assemblages of organisms, from forests, grasslands and tundras to coral reefs and the vast planktonic meadows of the sea. They have recorded endless climatic cycles, interrupted by the advance and retreat of glaciers and volcanic eruptions.

The watchers have been waiting for what might be called The Moment. When it comes, occupying only a few centuries and thus a mere tick in geological time, the forests shrink to less than half their original cover. Atmospheric carbon dioxide rises to the highest level in 100,000 years. The ozone layer of the stratosphere thins, and holes open at the poles. Plumes of nitrous oxide and toxins rise from fires in South America and Africa and settle in the upper troposphere. At night the land surface brightens with many millions of pinpoints of light.

It was all but inevitable, the watchers might tell us, that one species would eventually gain control of Earth. That role has fallen to Homo sapiens, a primate risen in Africa from a lineage that split away from the chimpanzee line five to eight million years ago. Unlike any creature that lived before, we have become a geophysical force, swiftly changing the atmosphere and climate as well as the composition of the world's fauna and flora. Now in the midst of a population explosion, the human species has doubled to 5.5 billion during the past 50 years. It is due to double again in the next 50 years. No other species has remotely approached the sheer mass in protoplasm generated by humanity.

Darwin's dice have rolled badly for Earth. It was a misfortune for the living world, many scientists believe, that a carnivorous primate and not some more benign form of animal made the breakthrough. Our species retains hereditary traits that add greatly to our destructive impact. We are tribal and territorial, intent on private space beyond minimal requirements and oriented by selfish sexual and reproductive drives. Cooperation beyond the family and tribal levels comes hard.

Worse, our liking for meat causes us to use the sun's energy at low efficiency. It is a rule of ecology that only about 10 per cent of the sun's energy captured by photosynthesis is produced in the tissue of herbivores, the animals that eat the plants. Only 10 per cent of this reaches the tissue of the carnivores feeding on the herbivores. And only 10 per cent is transferred to carnivores that eat carnivores. And so on for another step or two. In a wetlands chain that runs from marsh grass to grasshopper to warbler to hawk, the energy cap-

tured in green production shrinks a thousandfold. In other words, it takes a vast amount of grass to support a hawk.

Human beings, like hawks, are top carnivores, at the end of the food chain. Even with most societies confined to a mostly vegetarian diet, humanity is gobbling a large part of the rest of the living world. We appropriate between 20 and 40 per cent of the sun's energy that would otherwise be fixed into the tissue of natural vegetation, principally by our consumption of crops and timber, our buildings and roads. In the relentless search for more food, we have reduced animal life in lakes, rivers and now, increasingly, the open ocean. And everywhere we pollute the air and water, lower water tables and extinguish species.

The human species is an environmental abnormality. It is possible that intelligence in the wrong kind of species was preordained to be a fatal combination for the biosphere. Perhaps a law of evolution is that intelligence usually extinguishes itself. This scenario is based on the jaggedness of human nature, which holds that people are programmed by their genetic heritage to be so selfish that a sense of global responsibility will come too late. Individuals place themselves first, family second, tribe third and the rest of the world a distant fourth. Their genes also predispose them to plan ahead for one or two generations at most. They respond swiftly, often ferociously, to slight challenges to their status and tribal security. But humans also tend to underestimate the likelihood and the impact of such natural disasters as earthquakes.

The reason for this myopic fog, evolutionary biologists contend, is that it was actually advantageous during all but the last few millennia of the two million years of existence of the genus Homo. The brain evolved into its present form during this long stretch of evolutionary time, during which people existed in small hunter-gatherer bands. Life was precarious and short. A premium was placed on close attention to the near future and early reproduction, and little else. Disasters of a magnitude that occur only once every few centuries were forgotten or transmuted into myth. The mind still works comfortably backward and forward for only a few years.

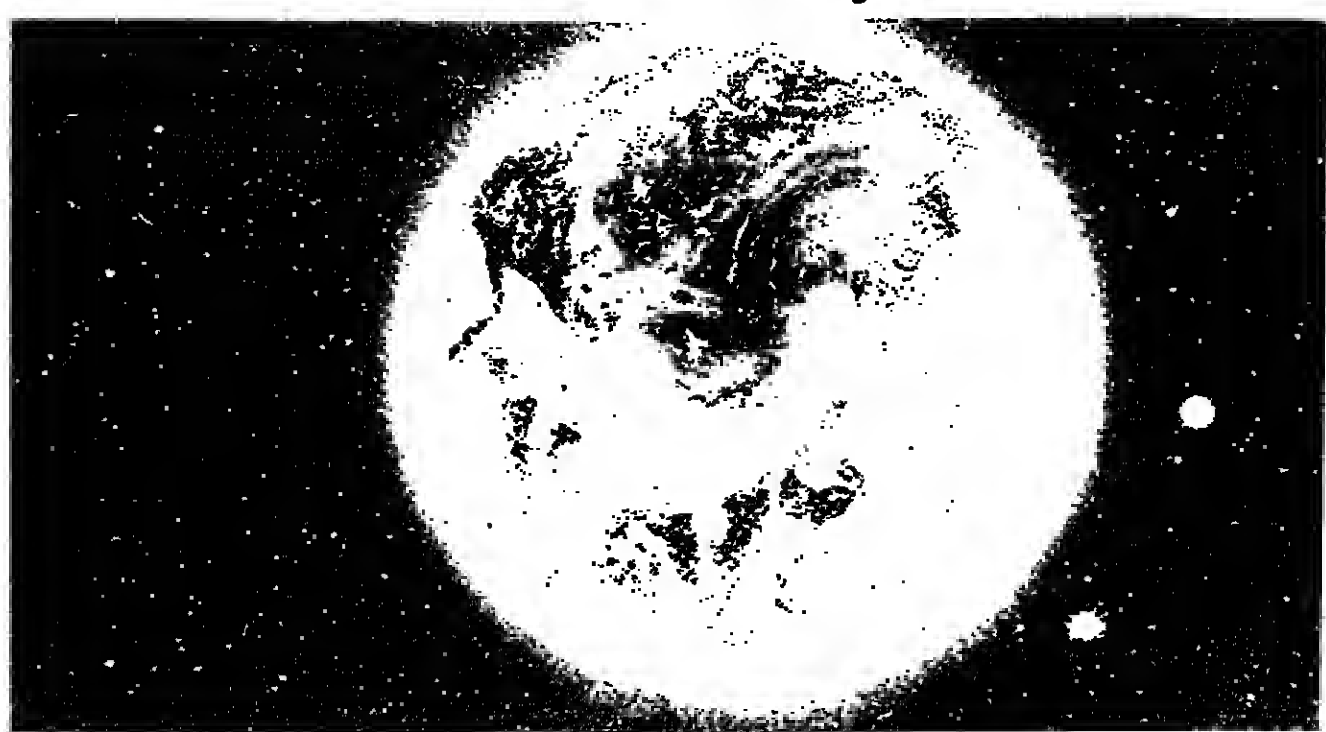
The rules have recently changed, however. Global crises are rising within the life span of the generation now coming of age. The time scale has contracted because of the exponential growth in both the human population and technologies impacting the environment. The larger the population, the faster the growth; the faster the growth, the sooner population increases.

With people everywhere seeking a better quality of life, the search for resources is expanding even faster than the population. The demand is being met by an increase in scientific knowledge, which doubles every 10 to 15 years. It is accelerated further by a parallel rise in environment-devouring technology. Because Earth is finite in many resources that determine the quality of life — including soil, nutrients, fresh water and space for ecosystems — doubling of consumption at constant time intervals can bring disaster with shocking suddenness.

Who can safely measure the human capacity to overcome the limits of Earth? The question of central interest is this: Are we racing to the brink of an abyss, or are we just gathering speed for a takeoff to a wonderful future? The crystal ball is clouded; the human condition baffles us all the more because it is unprecedented and bizarre, almost beyond understanding.

Opinions on the human prospect have fallen loosely into two schools. The first, exemplified by the biologist, holds that since humankind is transcendent in intelligence and spirit, so must our species have been released from the iron laws of ecology that bind all other species. No matter how serious the problem, civilised human beings, by ingenuity or force of will will find a solution.

Population growth? Good for the economy, claim some of the exemplars, and in any case a basic human right. Let it run. Land shortages? Try fusion energy to power the desalting of sea water, then reclaim the world's deserts. Species going extinct? Not to worry. That is nature's way. Think of humankind as only the latest in a long line of exterminating agents. If any case, because our species has pulled free of old-style, mindless Nature, we have begun a different order of life. Evolution should now be allowed to proceed along this new trajectory. Finally, resources? The planet has more than enough resources to last indefinitely, if human genius is allowed to



Earth as seen from space

address each new problem in turn, without alarmist restrictions.

The opposing idea of reality is environmentalism, which sees humanity as a biological species dependent on the natural world. As formidable as our intellect may be and as fierce our spirit, the argument goes, those qualities are not enough to free us from the constraints of the natural environment. We cannot draw confidence from successful solutions to the smaller problems of the past. Many of Earth's vital resources are about to be exhausted, its atmospheric chemistry is deteriorating and human populations have already grown dangerously large. Natural ecosystems, the wellsprings of a healthy environment, are being irreversibly degraded.

"It was a misfortune for the living world that a carnivorous primate and not some more benign form of animal made the breakthrough. Our species retains hereditary traits that add greatly to our destructive impact. We are tribal and territorial, intent on private space beyond minimal requirements and oriented by selfish sexual and reproductive drives. Cooperation beyond the family and tribal levels comes hard."

At the heart of this world view is the conviction that human, physical and spiritual health depends on sustaining the planet in a relatively unaltered state. Earth is our home in a full, genetic sense. Natural ecosystems — forests, coral reefs, marine blue waters — maintain the world exactly as we would wish it to be maintained. When we debate the environment and extinguish the variety of life, we are dismantling a support system that is too complex to understand, let alone replace, in the foreseeable future.

Sweden. Everybody in Sweden knows the current refugee policy is a catastrophe, economically, socially and from the humanitarian point of view," New Democracy said in a statement this week. Maria Pia Boethius, a Swedish writer and women's rights campaigner, sees xenophobia as only the latest upsurge in a sentiment that has always been below the surface.

"I am ashamed. Are we really going to be a people of which it can be said 'what happened in Germany in the 1930s could very well happen in Sweden'?" she wrote in an article in the socialist evening newspaper Aftonbladet.

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Liberal Sweden shocked by growing attacks on immigrants

By Tony Austin
Reuters

STOCKHOLM — A wave of racially-inspired attacks on immigrants this summer has caused bewilderment and soul-searching in Sweden, whose record of championing Third World causes is second to none.

The Swedish Red Cross Society believes xenophobia is so rampant it is urging Swedes to "take a view — choose sides — stop hatred," in an poster campaign using 2,500 public buses up and down the country.

"There's a big change going on in Swedish society. Racist attitudes are getting louder so we have to shout too," Red Cross spokesman Petter Martenson told Reuters.

A court at Trollhattan, western Sweden, jailed six young men on Sept. 8 for racist attacks including one incident

where a 16-year-old wearing jackboots jumped on the head of a Somali, causing the victim possibly permanent brain damage.

Two other youths are detained in Trollhattan, an industrial town where SAAB cars are made, pending possible charges for burning a mosque to the ground on Aug. 14. The court deplored that violence against immigrants was growing, adding that it "caused revulsion among the majority of people in this country."

Gangs of skinheads terrorising immigrants in the streets in Sundsvall, northern Sweden and Trollhattan on the west coast have forced public attention on to a problem which some Swedes preferred to believe did not exist.

Words are creeping back

into the language which used to be seen only as subtitles on films about the southern United States.

"The trouble begins every night at the flats where the svartingar (darkies) live," a schoolgirl said on Swedish television.

"Why do you call those people svartingar?" a shocked reporter asked.

"The Laserman," the name given by the media to a 40-year-old Swede on trial accused of shooting immigrants using a laser sight, has become a cult figure among right-wing extremists who wear T-shirts illustrating the attacks.

The street attacks and home-made bombs thrown at refugee hostels contrast with the image of Sweden as a supporter of developing countries and once-unpopular liberation struggles.

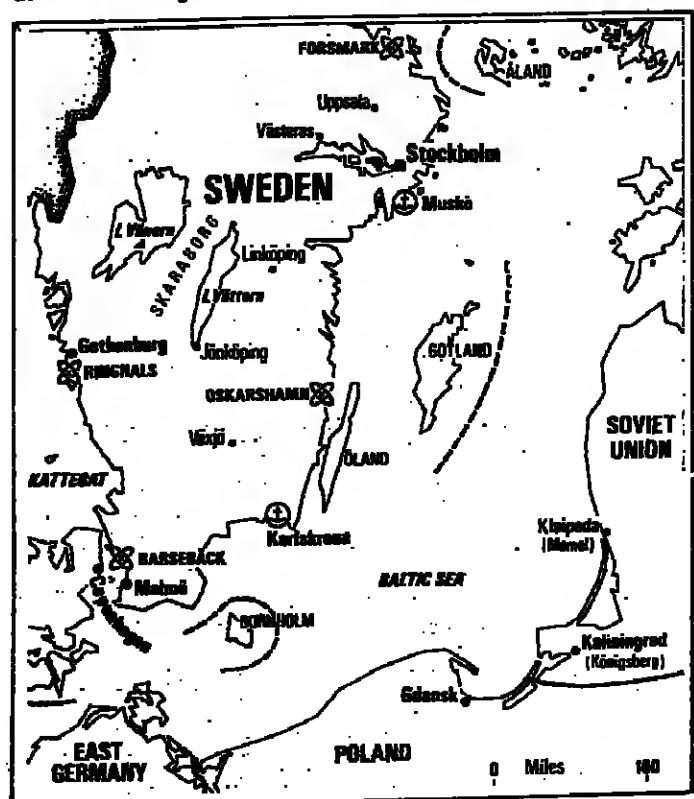
African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela paid tribute last year to Nordic countries, particularly Sweden, for their moral and financial support at a time when most western governments shunned South Africa's black nationalist movement.

"What's happening now in Sweden is a more or less global phenomenon. Here it has to do with the economic situation — Swedes are not used to these economic problems," Mr. Martenson said.

From virtually full employment in the 1980s Sweden now has an overall jobless rate of about 10 per cent. Among immigrants unemployment is more than 20 per cent.

"The refugees and immigrants are seen to represent a threat to jobs. They are also resented as a burden on the state," Mr. Martenson said.

About one million of Sweden's 8.6 million population are immigrants and more than 100,000 asylum seekers have asked to stay permanently. The most common countries of origin are Finland, former



environment. The human hand is now upon the physical homeostat. The ozone layer can be mostly restored to the upper atmosphere by elimination of CFCs, with these substances peaking at six times the present level and then subsiding during the next half century. Also, with procedures that will prove far more difficult and initially expensive, carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases can be pulled back to concentrations that slow global warming.

The human hand, however, is not upon the biological homeostat. There is no way in sight to micro-manage the natural ecosystems and the millions of species they contain. That feat might be accomplished by generations to come, but then it will be too late for the ecosystems — and perhaps for us. Despite the seemingly bottomless nature of creation, humankind has been chipping away at its diversity, and Earth is destined to become an impoverished planet within a century if present trends continue. Mass extinctions are being reported with increasing frequency everywhere. The main cause is the destruction of natural habitats, especially tropical forests. Close behind is the introduction of animals that outbreed native species.

The few thousand biologists worldwide who specialise in diversity can witness and report no more than a very small percentage of the extinctions actually occurring. They have facilities to keep track of only a tiny fraction of the millions of species and a sliver of the planet's surface on a yearly basis. They have devised a rule of thumb to characterise the situation: that whenever careful studies are made of habitats before and after disturbance, extinctions almost always come to light. The corollary: the majority of extinctions are never observed. Species are vanishing before they can be even discovered.

There is a way, nonetheless, to estimate the rate of loss indirectly. Independent studies around the world and in fresh and marine waters have revealed a robust connection between the size of a habitat and the amount of biodiversity it contains. Even a small loss in area reduces the number of species. The relation is such that when the area of the habitat is cut to a tenth of its original cover, the number of species eventually drops by roughly one-half. Tropical rainforests, thought to harbour a majority of Earth's species (why conservationists get so exercised about them), are being reduced by nearly that magnitude. When area reduction and all the other extinction agents are considered together, it is reasonable to project a reduction by 20 per cent or more of the rainforest species by the year 2020, climbing to 50 per cent or more by mid-century, if nothing is done to change current practice.

The ongoing loss will not be replaced by evolution in any period of time that has meaning for humanity. Extinction is now proceeding thousands of times faster than the production of new species. The average lifespan of a species and its descendants in

past geological eras varied according to group (like molluscs or echinoderms or flowering plants) from about 1 to 10 million years. In the past 500 million years, there have been five great extinction spasms comparable to the one now being inaugurated by human expansion. The latest ended the Age of Reptiles 66 million years ago. In each case, it took more than 10 million years for evolution to replenish the biodiversity lost. And that was in an otherwise undisturbed environment.

The surviving biosphere remains the great unknown of Earth. On the practical side, it is hard even to imagine what other species have to offer in the way of new pharmaceuticals, crops, fibres, petroleum substitutes and other products. We have only a poor grasp of the ecosystem services by which other organisms cleanse the water, turn soil into a fertile living cover and manufacture the very air we breathe. We only sense what the highly diverse natural world means to our mental well-being.

Indeed, if all the world's biologists, armed with unlimited funds, were to try to collect samples of all the species of organisms in a rain-forest, and then were to try to replace them on empty ground, they would not know remotely how to do it. In one forest patch can live legions of species: perhaps 300 birds, 500 butterflies, 200 ants, 50,000 beetles, 1,000 trees, 5,000 fungi, tens of thousands of bacteria and so on down a long roster of major groups. Each species occupies a niche, demanding a certain place, an exact microclimate, particular nutrients and temperature and humidity cycles with specified timing to trigger phases of the life cycle. Many, perhaps most, of the species are always come to light. The corollary: the majority of extinctions are never observed. Species are vanishing before they can be even discovered.

In its neglect of the rest of life, exemplification fails definitively. To move ahead as though scientific and entrepreneurial genius will solve each crisis implies that the biosphere can be similarly manipulated. But the world is too complicated to be turned into a garden. There is no biological homeostat that can be worked by humanity; to believe otherwise is to risk reducing a large part of Earth to a wasteland.

The environmentalist vision, less exuberant than exemplification, is closer to reality. It sees humanity entering a bottleneck unique in history, constricted by population and economic pressures. In order to pass through to the other side, within perhaps 50 to 100 years, more science and entrepreneurship will have to be devoted to stabilising the global environment. That can be accomplished only by halting population growth and devising a wiser use of resources than has been accomplished to date. And wise use means preserving the surviving ecosystems, micro-managing them only enough to save the biodiversity they contain, until such time as they can be understood and employed in the fullest sense for human benefit — New York Times Magazine.

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CHAMPAGNE

G-7 throws weight behind Yeltsin

WASHINGTON (R) — The finance ministers of the seven richest powers squarely backed Russian President Boris Yeltsin's reform bid to create a free market society out of the world's first communist state.

The Group of Seven (G-7) ministers appeared to sweep aside their own squabbles at a meeting Saturday over how to nurture global economic recovery in order to focus on the immediate challenges facing Mr. Yeltsin.

Backing the Russian leader in his tense showdown with his political opponents in parliament this week, the G-7 said: "Ministers expressed their very strong hope that the latest developments will help Russia achieve a decisive breakthrough onto the path of market reform."

In their joint statement the ministers "praised President Yeltsin's commitment to pursue the path of market-

oriented reform. They saw this path as the right one for creating a better future for Russia's people and for integrating Russia into the world economy."

And, "they reaffirmed their commitment to the programme of support agreed to in Tokyo in April and urged the Russian government to take the measures necessary for it to be fully effective."

The high spot of the four hours of talks was a briefing by Russian Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov, who made welcome noises on democracy and debt repayment, rallying support for Mr. Yeltsin's reforms.

G-7 officials said Mr. Fyodorov indicated Russia would pay off its debt arrears.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke said the seven did not offer to slacken the conditions they have put on giving more aid to Moscow.

But French Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery told France Inter Radio that Mr. Fyodorov had promised that the conditions would be met to unblock the aid.

One G-7 official told Reuters the easy Texan charm of the day's chairman, U.S. Treasury Lloyd Bentsen, played a big part in what he described as the "extremely genial" atmosphere of Saturday's meeting.

A note on the need to ensure the Palestinian-Israeli peace accord is nurtured with financial aid passed without a murmur.

The GATT trade talks, which risk dividing the major powers as the European Community and United States thrash out their differences on farm trade next week, were barely touched on.

"No one put pressure on anyone," an official said.

Mr. Bentsen also made things easier by getting his colleagues to agree to dispense with the traditional G-7 final communiqué.

At previous meetings this year, the United States, Canada and the four European G-7 members — Germany, France, Britain and Italy — have criticised Japan for not spending enough to stoke up the economy.

The Europeans and Japan have criticised the United States for not doing enough to get its budget deficit down. And the North Americans and Japanese have laid into Europe, particularly Germany, for keeping interest rates too high.

But German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said there was "not a hint of criticism" of German monetary policy, despite the fact Mr. Bentsen had warned just two days before

that Germany could do more to ease Europe's recession by cutting rates.

Japanese officials said Tokyo, too, avoided the heat. Mr. Bentsen told reporters he was pleased with what the Japanese have done, even though he thought they could do more.

"We are heading in the right direction, but substantially more remains to be done," Mr. Bentsen said. The name of the game remained creating jobs in the industrialised world, though.

As discussions widened on Sunday to include the members of the Group of Ten and the annual meetings begin of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, the central issue of how the highest powers are going to tackle rising unemployment is unlikely to get any more heated.

Poor countries call for conclusion of trade talks

WASHINGTON (R) — Attempts by the Third World and former Soviet-bloc states to build market economies will be undermined if the industrial world fails to conclude world trade talks, poor nations warned Saturday.

Ministers from 24 developing nations meeting at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) criticised rich nations for failing to settle disputes and seal a trade deal that is crucial for global economic growth.

The Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has dragged on for seven years, fueling protectionist policies and subsidies, particularly in Europe, the nations said in a communiqué.

"Protectionism... and the inability to finish this Uruguay Round is preventing us from moving into these industrial-

ised countries' markets," Mohammad Imady, Syrian economy and foreign trade minister and chairman of the meeting, told a news conference.

The GATT round now faces a make-or-break deadline of Dec. 15 but a heated dispute over agricultural trade between the United States and European Community has put a road block to current negotiations.

Trade chiefs are due to thrash out this and other GATT matters at a meeting Monday, but few expect any quick breakthrough on the fractious farm issue.

The ministers of the G-24 plan to present a document laying out their position to the IMF-World Bank annual meeting starting here next week.

After meeting with the G-24, IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus praised the free market policies being embraced by many developing nations, meeting sources said.

But in a communiqué released after the meeting, ministers from eight Latin American, eight African and eight Asian nations said those economic reforms would be jeopardised unless there are open markets for their products.

"Failure to reach agreement (on GATT) would erode trust and confidence and under-

mine the outward-oriented reform strategies that are being followed by many developing countries as well as formerly centrally planned economies," they said.

They blasted the "cost of protectionist policies of the industrial countries, borne by consumers of those countries themselves" and denounced taxes on oil products as "highly distortive and discriminatory."

In the communiqué, they said sluggish performance in the industrial world is also undermining public support for badly needed financial aid for the Third World.

But they said such concerns were based on misconceptions and urged governments and lending agencies to help "improve public understanding of these issues and to help mobilise wider political support... for increased aid flows."

The G-24 hailed continued growth, debt reduction agreements and the return to private capitals in many developing nations.

Still, it noted, many are left out of the boom:

— A 25 per cent decline in commodities prices since 1990 is hurting many of its members.

— Per capita real income in sub-Saharan Africa is lower than it was more than a decade ago.

Russian bear growls, bulls barely stir

LONDON (R) — Even Russia's political crisis — whether it's seen as a threat to world peace or to key supplies of raw materials — could not lift the gloom this week that hangs heavy over major commodity prices.

"With the outlook for growth around the world fairly poor in the near term I think the (prices) will continue to be depressed. We could see prices getting worse before the end of the year," one London-based economist said.

The stark fact is that the majority of the world's most important and actively traded commodities are in oversupply and their main buyers financially unable to mop up the excess.

After Russian President Boris Yeltsin dissolved parliament early in the week, prices from oil to gold bounced up but never for long.

Gold, which like the dollar is a hiding place for money whenever the world looks close to chaos, was only about \$5.50 up on the week at a little over \$357.

"The market is basically bearish. The Russian rallies have just added to the disappointment because they have been so short and have had no follow-through," one analyst said.

But some analysts said that the funds, especially those in the United States whose huge investments earlier in the summer were key in pushing gold above \$400, were still hovering around, waiting for a chance to profit on any reaction to developments in Russia.

"The key is the Russian volatility. If it continues, it will cause shifting out of European currencies as well as the dollar into safer vehicles," Bette Raptopoulos of Prudential Securities said in New York.

Oil, the commodity with the longest-lived producer pact, also got briefly excited by the

Russian news with Brent crude moving up to almost \$17 at one time.

But by the end of the week it was down to \$16.36 in a nervous market ahead of the weekend full OPEC meeting in Geneva.

Some industrial metals, for which Russia is a major supplier, rose on belief the Moscow events might interfere with supplies but soon fell back as traders realised there are more than ample stocks to keep factories going.

Metals have been among the hardest hit by the global recession and copper, artificially supported for weeks, finally tumbled this week to near six-year lows when the props were removed.

Tin prices are just above their lowest for 20 years, nickel and lead are both close to seven-year lows, and zinc is at six-year lows.

Their problems were only highlighted by the announcement Friday by the London Metal Exchange that stocks of non-ferrous metals in its warehouses had topped four million tonnes for the first time. That is worth almost \$5 billion.

Food is not much better.

The International Wheat Council Thursday predicted the world's wheat crop this year would be the second biggest ever and traders said grain prices were destined to slide because demand was not picking up.

Two commodities, however, continue to stand out with their producers at last able to cash in after years of depression.

Coffee, supported by agreement by producers to keep a fifth of their exports off the market from October, is now double what it was last year at almost \$1,300 a tonne.

But some analysts are wondering how long the agreement will last given the collapse of nearly every other commodity over recent years.

IMF chief sees quick flow of money to S. Africa

WASHINGTON (R) — African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela Saturday won a pledge for \$850 million in IMF aid, securing badly needed funds for South Africa's troubled economy.

Treated like a head of state, Mr. Mandela found that his plea to tear down economic sanctions against South Africa was being met with swift action in the West.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Michel Camdessus said after meeting Mr. Mandela that he was eager to channel within days the first multilateral assistance to South Africa, since sanctions were erected in the early 1980s.

Mr. Mandela told the United Nations Friday it was time to repeal sanctions against South Africa as the country moves towards democracy and elections next April.

While the United States and the European Community have already lifted most restrictions on trade, the appeal from Mr. Mandela — who spent 27 years in jail for his opposition to apartheid — clears the way for badly-needed investment.

After Mr. Mandela pleaded for an end to sanctions, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand said they would comply. The Commonwealth, a 50-nation grouping of former British colonies, recommended scrapping trade sanctions.

Billions of dollars in potential investment money, locked up in pension funds, could be free to flow to South Africa from the West once the embargoes are lifted.

Iraq says oil price drop hitting producer countries

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, whose oil exports are blocked by U.N. sanctions, said Sunday a drop in oil prices was badly affecting producers in developing countries.

"The acute slump in oil prices entails grave consequences for the interests of developing countries exporting oil," Oil Minister Safa Hadi Jawad said in an interview in the government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah.

"Oil revenues started deteriorating in several OPEC countries in absolute and proportional terms," Mr. Jawad said.

The remarks were Mr. Jawad's first since he took over Iraq's oil portfolio this month from Osama Abdul Razzaq Al Hiti in a major cabinet reshuffle ordered by President Saddam Hussein.

OPEC ministers are currently in Geneva trying to forge consensus on output and boost oil prices from three-year lows caused by chronic overproduction and the sluggish world

economy.

Oil ministry sources said Iraq was represented in the meeting by its ambassador in Vienna.

Mr. Jawad blamed the price decline on "huge surplus production." But unlike his predecessor he stopped short of lashing out at OPEC quota husters.

In the past, Iraq has blamed Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for overproducing. It warned OPEC members against stealing Iraq's output quota while its exports were blocked by U.N. sanctions.

Mr. Jawad criticised U.N. trade sanctions on Iraq which he said kept "a very positive and effective power" out of the oil market.

He said Iraq's absence had removed a significant balancing factor from the market, and this had a bad effect on developing country oil producers who were now suffering from falling prices and revenues.

"Iraq with its huge oil poten-

tial and its principled stands was and still is an effective force in the world oil markets," Mr. Jawad said.

Mr. Jawad said his country was looking forward to playing a positive role in world markets once the oil embargo was removed.

He did not say how Iraq's return would bring balance to already glutted world markets or how prices would pick up if Iraq throws in its export weight of about 2.5 million barrels a day.

Iraq hopes the United Nations Security Council will eventually lift the oil embargo if it fully meets all U.N. demands on banned weapons and future control and monitoring.

Iraq and the U.N. are to hold high-level political and technical talks by the end of September.

Baghdad is seeking a promise from the U.N. to have the stringent sanctions, imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, eased or lifted in return for full compliance.

Yamaha to cut 1,500 jobs

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Yamaha corp. plans to reduce its work force by 1,500 over the next three years as part of restructuring efforts, a news report has said. The restructuring plan by the top Japanese manufacturer of pianos and other musical instruments is intended to deal with slow sales amid the current economic slump. Kyodo News Service quoted company sources as saying, Yamaha now has a work force of 111,500.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Uranus goes direct at early this morning heightening ambition and intuition giving rise to inventive, spontaneous imagination that will put you on the right channel and provide new interests.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't hold on to an old course of action that keeps you from being able to show forth the many talents with which you are so richly imbued.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have the chance now to get rid of an obligation that has kept you from having the greatest possible amount of harmony at your own residence.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You need to get away from a limiting associate in the outside world if you are going to be most productive in your everyday routines, outlets.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is the day to make sure you don't spend all your time at trivial duties will keep you from being aware of your ability to enlarge your abundance.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Past outlets are not for you today but look for a new inspiration by which to gain some advance desires which can catapult you forward in life.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Think about the various

aims you have that have recently become a part of your thinking and interests and don't hold so tightly to family bonds.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) This is the moment when good friends are now aware of what you want most out of life and are willing to sit down in person and gain specific plans from you.

SCORPIO: (October 24 to November 21) Think about the various newslasts you have on an important public matter and you find you will be able to work it out to your advantage.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think about the best means by which you can put in motion your most worthwhile interests and activities and don't let personal dissipation rule you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever you have in mind that involves attending to a duty that puzzles you is best handled by getting a new slant on ways to solve the issue.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Stay away from a time consuming and limiting friend and be with an outside associate who has considerable vision and go along with ideas expressed.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Eschew worldly interests and get at those private interests and activities that are demanding attention and do them in a highly creative fashion.

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VEFER

AXORB

TARREY

PEESLY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: AN -

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BULLY PARCH INFLUX AMBUSH
Answer: What the inebriated insect was — A BAR FLY

Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

THE Daily Crossword

by Kenneth Holden

ACROSS

1 Cave dwellers
5 City on the Nile
10 Playwright — Hart
14 — Baker
15 Fictitious
16 Rectangular plaster
17 Search thoroughly
18 Rest
20 Soft-shell clam
22 Solid material
23 Gentle
24 OOE's
25 John or Mary
27 More important
31 Hunter
32 Military play
33 Modest
38 Exclamation of regret
39 Onions
40 Pitfall
41 Live alone
42 Sour
43 Couple
45 Disheveled
46 Doctor
50 Be troubled
51 Slightly
54 Manage
56 Connuat
58 Resembles
61 Protective spray
62 Row
63 Tempest
64 Related
65 Pioneer car maker
66 One-time senator
67 — smile to your

DOWN

1 Erupt
2 Waged
3 Surprised
4 Goggles J.C. and Sam
5 Celestial body
6 Excel
7 Star-ving vessel
8 To shelter
9 Handler
10 Small monkey
11 The — love
12 ERA, a
13 Tokyo temple
14 Greek letter
15 Gooden's team
16 De a couple
17 lake
18 Attack
19 Not easily accepted
20 Jacob's twin
21 Certain used car
22 Prohibited
23 King of comedy
24 Hedges of baseball
27 The job is
28 Imped
29 Sai
30 supports
31 — do well
32 Overlook

47 Word of entromy
48 Beast
49 Implied
50 Actress
51 News
52 Mr. Framinger
55 Colo. ski resort
56 Supplemented with "ou" I
57 News
58 Guit
60 Child

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. MONTANA
2. APPLE
3. UTAH
4. BROWN
5. SIDE
6. BEAR
7. BROCK
8. PLEASANT
9. ANSWER
10. SANE
11. GOOD
12. ARTURO
13. LEMMON
14. SERVO
15. DEER
16. ALBERT
17. HENRI
18. LEO
19. BULL
20. HENRI
21. BOB
22. MONTANA
23. APPLE
24. UTAH
25. BROWN
26. SIDE
27. BEAR
28. BROCK
29. PLEASANT
30. ANSWER

هكذا صنع الأمل

Kuwait captures more oil product sales in Asia

SINGAPORE (R) — Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC), faced with expanding refining capacity at home and fewer Middle East product outlets, is capturing a larger slice of the Far East oil market, traders said.

Since Kuwait increased term crude processing volumes in Singapore and spot processing at South Korean refineries, more of their products have been sold directly to Indonesia, Vietnam, India and the Philippines, traders said.

"KPC has increased sales, particularly in the second-half of the year, and are able to commit larger volumes," a trader said.

Two million barrels of gas oil were supplied by KPC at 15-25 U.S. cents premium to Singapore quotations CF in September.

These imports were in addition to the usual 1.5 to two million barrels Indonesia buys from the spot market each month.

A large portion of Indonesia's October gas oil requirements are also expected to be met by KPC, sources said.

"They (Indonesians) still buy from other traders, but what is true is that KPC is now an additional source of supply and prices have become more competitive," an Indonesian source said.

Kuwait jet fuel cargoes also been sold to Indonesia to meet the country's monthly demand for about 300,000 barrels.

Increased Indonesian buying of distillates was prompted by the shutdown of a hydrocracker at the Balikpapan refinery.

A crack in the gas compressor caused the refinery to operate at half capacity of about 50,000 barrels per day (b/d) for two weeks in late-August to early-September, sources said.

Aside from Kuwait's inroads into the lucrative Indonesian market, traders said the emirate has taken over much of the Indian market, a major outlet for diesel and kerosene in Asia.

As its refining capacity returns onstream, Kuwait has become India's largest term supplier of middle distillates, out-doing Abu Dhabi, Bahrain and Malaysia's PETCO, traders said.

Kuwait supplied about 50,000 b/d of distillates in term contracts to India last year, and is expected to raise volume by increasing spot middle distillates sales this year.

"Kuwait will have more supply of products when the Shuaiba refinery comes on-stream next month, and the Iranians stop taking so much from the spot market," an Asian oil refiner said.

Iran started up the 90,000 b/d Arak refinery this month and will be boosting capacity at the 230,000 b/d Abadan refinery.

President Saleh urges foreign investment in Yemen

SANAA (R) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh Saturday called for Arab and foreign investment in his impoverished country and promised to pump revenues from increasing oil production into development plans.

President Saleh said in a televised address the new coalition government, formed after united Yemen's first general elections in April, was committed to economic reform to deal with inflation and unemployment.

"We assert that revenues from this promising oil wealth should be used to bring progress and prosperity to our people and to develop the agricultural sector," he said. "We repeat our welcome to Arab and foreign investments in our country and urge the government to give more attention to

the investors and direct their investments towards the sectors and projects that achieve common benefit."

President Saleh said oil reserves at the Jannah field were estimated at 347 million barrels while reserves at the Shabwa field stood at 180 million barrels.

Yemen had said it expects its oil production capacity to increase by a further 60,000 b/d next year, when production starts from the Shabwa and Jannah fields, operated by the French oil firm Total and Saudi Arabia's Nimir Petroleum Company.

President Saleh said around 30 foreign oil companies were currently operating in Yemen, which Thursday formally inaugurated oil exports from the major new producing region of Masila, raising its oil produc-

tion to around 300,000 barrels per day (b/d).

Yemen, which started producing oil in 1987 from the Marib region, now increases its total output by 120,000 b/d from 10 wells in Masila.

Most of Yemen's oil production, fluctuating between 170,000 and 200,000 b/d, had come from fields in the eastern Marib region.

President Saleh said 15 trillion cubic feet of gas have been found in the Marib field and Yemen was now meeting its local needs for gas. He said revenues expected from the production and export of gas are estimated at 33 billion in the next 30 years.

He said Yemen was studying offers to tap its natural gas resources and hopes to liquefy the gas for export at an initial rate of five million tonnes a year.

"Now there are studies to carry out a liquefied natural gas project whose investment cost will be \$2.5 billion and aims at producing five million tonnes a year of natural gas for export in addition to producing one million tonnes of liquefied gas for generating power in Yemen," President Saleh said.



Ali Abdullah Saleh

Yemen, which started producing oil in 1987 from the Marib region, now increases its total output by 120,000 b/d from 10 wells in Masila.

EC seen keeping single currency goal

BRUSSELS (R) — Britain's latest call for a new agenda for the European Community (EC) following a year of political and monetary upheavals seems unlikely to deter its partners from pursuing their goal of a single EC currency.

Prime Minister John Major's tirade Friday against clinging to "old nostrums" in a changing world was dismissed by

diplomats in Brussels as an attempt to appease party critics.

Dogged by opponents of the Maastricht treaty on political and monetary union, who almost brought down his Conservative government, Mr. Major is portrayed daily in the British press as fighting to save his premiership.

Other EC governments, though chastened by the turmoil on financial markets, which forced dramatic changes to the EC's currency grid in August, still regard the treaty and its goal of deeper integration as the only way ahead for the Community.

Designed precisely to reaffirm their faith and relaunch the Community and Maastricht. In his article in the Economist Friday, Mr. Major ridiculed their quasi-religious belief, saying that to "recite the mantra" of economic and monetary union (EMU) as if nothing had changed would be as quaint as doing a rain dance and about as effective.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOSEIN BAKR CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN				
TELEPHONE: 640170 / 642170				
ORGANIZED MARKET SEATS PRICE LIST FOR SEPTEMBER 26/27/1993				
COUNTRY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PRICE	OFFERING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	89,379	177,000	177,000	180,000
CHANDI AMMAN BANK	12,134	5,000	5,000	5,000
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	3,520	37,000	36,250	35,200
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	10,148	1,950	1,910	2,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	30,800	3,920	4,000	4,000
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	20,426	3,320	3,450	4,450
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	122,257	2,650	2,950	2,070
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	15,400	4,150	4,300	4,300
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	4,844	4,500	4,450	4,450
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	12,008	4,600	4,550	4,450
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	44,640	1,770	1,750	1,840
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	32,660	2,430	2,500	2,530
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	3,900	3,950	3,600	3,900
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	72,595	3,540	3,450	3,540
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	0,130	2,900	2,900	3,000
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	99,171	2,900	2,810	2,360
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	72	1,200	1,170	1,170
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	10,849	4,050	4,700	4,030
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	11,528	7,250	7,150	7,460
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	0,063	3,950	4,050	4,030
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	1,586	1,640	1,640	1,650
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	1,586	0,510	0,510	0,520
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	722	3,010	1,950	1,950
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	18,046	2,500	2,510	2,240
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	9,320	2,550	2,570	2,600
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	306,091	8,820	2,970	2,600
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	18,058	8,800	8,900	8,640
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	3,207	7,100	7,000	7,000
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	122,084	8,250	6,360	6,520
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	10,752	7,350	7,350	7,350
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	10,752	7,350	7,350	7,350
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	517	2,510	2,550	2,620
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	41	0,430	0,410	0,410
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	21,704	16,000	16,000	16,750
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	830	2,410	2,520	2,520
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	17,154	9,150	9,200	9,600
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	15,674	5,500	5,500	5,500
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	2,650	3,540	3,540	3,540
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	1,727	0,240	0,250	0,270
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	7,240	0,000	0,000	0,150
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	5,760	2,420	2,420	2,420
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	863	3,820	4,150	4,340
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	3,014	1,830	1,470	1,520
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	5,424	5,300	5,440	5,430
GRAND TOTAL		1,215,710		
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		152194		
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET		30,25482		

Financial Markets

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (September 20-September 24, 1993)

AMMAN — The U.S. dollar was firm against all other major currencies last week. It ended the week 1.5 per cent higher against the mark, 1.50 per cent higher against Sterling and 1.39 per cent higher against the yen. While a greater-than-expected cut in the Japanese discount rate Tuesday had a significant impact, the dollar was also boosted by a new political crisis in Russia.

The dollar was slightly lower against the mark and Sterling Monday, but moved a bit higher against the yen. Analysts indicated that the dollar moved higher against the yen as a result of traders' reaction to a report by a Japanese news agency that the Bank of Japan would cut the official discount rate by 0.75 per cent the next day, instead of the 0.50 per cent cut that had been widely anticipated. The agency indicated that this move was expected to boost the Japanese economy and halt the state of deterioration it had witnessed recently as a result of the yen's sharp rise against the dollar. The dollar fell against the mark, however, in response to a dollar sell-off on profit-taking.

The dollar's retreat against the mark was also attributed to traders' concern over dollar selling by central banks, as well as increased expectations that the Bundesbank would not cut interest rates further during its Council meeting Thursday, the last meeting presided over by President Schlesinger, before handing over to Vice President Tietmeyer.

The dollar rallied sharply against other major currencies Tuesday, especially against the German mark. Its rally appeared to be inspired by news that Russian President Boris Yeltsin had dissolved Parliament, which made the dollar an attractive safe-haven currency. News also indicated that the conservatives in the Parliament responded to Mr. Yeltsin's move by calling for annulment of his powers and declaring his opponent, Ruslout, as the new president. Analysts indicated that the dollar moved higher against the mark on growing beliefs that Germany would suffer the most, should the Russian crisis escalate, as it had strong trade links with Russia.

Meanwhile, the dollar also appreciated against the yen in response to a greater-than-expected cut in the Japanese discount rate by 0.75 per cent to 1.75 per cent. In addition, the dollar got some support following comments by U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen that day. Mr. Bentsen was quoted as saying that he welcomed Japan's Discount Rate cut and that this step should help reduce Japan's huge trade surplus with the U.S. The dollar, thus, ended at 106.33 yen, its highest for the week.

The dollar traded in narrow ranges Wednesday, but was slightly lower against other major currencies as traders took profits on their long dollar positions, built-up on safe-haven considerations the previous day. But traders were also reluctant to aggressively sell the dollar, since indications still pointed to an unstable political situation in Russia. The dollar also appreciated against the mark during trading hours in response to increased demand for U.S. assets, due to the on-going political tensions in Russia. But position squaring caused the dollar to retreat at New York close. In the meantime, comments by Mr. Bentsen calling for more German interest rate cuts and more Japanese fiscal stimulus, failed to support the dollar.

The dollar rebounded sharply against the mark Thursday, but fell modestly against the yen, as market reports reflected marked uncertainty over the implications of the political crisis in Russia on the German currency. Reports indicated that traders remained preoccupied with the uncertain political situation in Russia because of Germany's economic and geographic ties with Russia. The dollar thus ended at 1.6433, its highest for the week.

The dollar retreated against the mark Friday, but remained unchanged against Sterling and the yen. Indications of an easing of political tensions in Russia provided traders with opportunities to sell dollars on profit-taking. The dollar also fell back in response to position squaring ahead of the G-7 meeting the next day. On the other hand, analysts indicated that market selling in response to the Russian political situation was overdone compared to its trade with other countries, as Germany's trade with Russia was considered to be relatively small compared to its trade with other countries. They also indicated that German banks are well provisioned, should Russia default on its debts. In the meantime a better-than-expected rise in August durable goods orders by 2.0 per cent in the U.S., failed to affect exchange rates.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 26/9/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940
Sterling Pound	1.0428	1.0480
Deutsche Mark	0.4214	0.4235
Swiss Franc	0.4836	0.4860
French Franc	0.1212	0.1218
Japanese Yen	0.6521	0.6554
Dutch Guilder	0.3760	0.3779
Swedish Krona	0.0437	0.0439
Italian Lira	0.0437	0.0439
Belgian Franc	0.0437	0.0439

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Bosnian Muslim forces attack Croats in Vitez; truce in Mostar

SARAJEVO (R) — Croat forces fought the Muslim-led Bosnian army from trenches in central Bosnia while Bosnian Croats said they had agreed on a ceasefire with their Muslim foes in the southern city of Mostar.

Muslim soldiers are pressing their attack around the Croat-held town of Vitez, where they hope to seize a strategic explosives factory.

But Croatian radio said Saturday that Croat forces are ready to blow up the factory rather than surrender it to Muslim soldiers.

"We would like to warn you that there are some circles which are ready to blow up the factory dumps if this area falls," said a statement from Croat authorities read on Croatian radio.

About 300 tonnes of explosives and 500 tonnes of nitric and sulphuric acids in the factory posed a threat to the whole of central Bosnia, the radio said.

Bosnian Croat Defence Council (HVO) forces said Saturday they had agreed on a ceasefire with Muslim forces to end fighting in the southwest city of Mostar, a major flash-point in Bosnia's 17-month civil war.

The Croatian State News Agency (HINA) reported that senior Bosnian Croat military officers signed an accord in nearby Medjugorje after mediation from senior U.N.

peacekeeping official Cedric Thornberry.

The HINA report did not say when the ceasefire was to take effect and there was no immediate confirmation from the Muslim side or the U.N. Protection Force.

Months of heavy fighting for control of Mostar, a city of 120,000, has blocked the main humanitarian supply corridor to civilians trapped in central Bosnia. Recent fighting has virtually cut off some 55,000 Muslims in the Croat-besieged east side of the city from outside food aid.

"The aim of the ceasefire agreement is to reduce the suffering of people on both sides of the (front-line) Neretva River in Mostar," HINA said.

Muslims continued infantry and artillery attacks around Vitez, killing one civilian in the town centre and wounding three others Saturday, Croatian radio said.

The Bosnian government army, hampered by an international arms embargo, hopes to capture the Vitez explosives factory to strengthen its hand in Bosnia's war.

Croatian forces said Saturday two Croats were killed and six wounded in fighting at Zabrđe, a frontline village southwest of Vitez.

Muslim troops launched a coordinated offensive on Croat positions in central Bosnia's

Lasva River Valley nine days ago. About 65,000 Croats in the areas of Busavaca, Vitez and Novi Travnik are believed to be surrounded by the Muslim soldiers.

The battle for central Bosnia's Lasva River Valley has turned into a war of attrition fought from World War I-type trenches.

"The Muslims won't stop until we have beaten them or we're all dead," said HVO soldier Micho Michic.

As fighting raged on, the Bosnian parliament in Sarajevo planned to meet Tuesday to debate the latest peace proposal from international mediators Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has said he will not recommend approval of the peace plan.

Croats in the Lasva River Valley believe Muslim soldiers will try to gain as much ground as possible before the parliament convenes.

"They are behind schedule already," said HVO liaison officer Darko Gelic. "The Muslims had orders to capture the explosives factory last week."

Asked how he knew what the Muslim orders were, Gelic replied: "We intercept their orders and they intercept ours. There are not many secrets in this war as you might think." Meanwhile, the Clinton

administration's commitment to send U.S. troops to police a peace settlement in Bosnia is highly conditional, the Washington Post reported Sunday.

The administration had tentatively decided to send troops only if the warring parties explicitly invited them, if other countries agreed in advance to help pay the cost and if there was a clear "exit strategy" for ending the mission, the paper quoted an unnamed senior defence official as saying.

"What we're looking at is: What are the kind of conditions that we would be looking for in order to participate in this kind of thing?" the official said, emphasising that President Bill Clinton had made no decision.

U.S. officials have said they are prepared to commit roughly half a 50,000 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) troops that they say would be needed to enforce a peace settlement, the paper said.

The Post reported that the official said the administration would "probably" seek a resolution from Congress approving the deployment.

It said Mr. Clinton was considering an appeal from senior lawmakers Thursday to deliver a major speech or television address explaining why the United States had a stake in the region.



A U.N. armoured personnel carrier crosses one of the bridges over the Miljacka River into the old part of Sarajevo. The U.N.'s presence in the

Bosnian capital is more visible throughout the city (AFP photo)

Georgian reinforcements in Sukhumi

TBILISI (AFP) — Georgian army reinforcements Sunday fought their way into Sukhumi, the besieged provincial capital of breakaway Abkhazia, breaching a blockade by rebel forces, the Georgian Defence Ministry said here.

The soldiers formed the first units of reinforcements still trying to fight their way into the besieged town.

Abkhaz separatists immediately denied the Georgian army troops had arrived, the Interfax News Agency said.

Government troops Saturday crossed the Kodori River about 20 kilometres from Sukhumi and broke through the Abkhazian front line to reach the village of Adzharzkh.

Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, who has stayed with his besieged troops in Sukhumi for the last week, Saturday visited Georgian positions to try to boost soldiers' morale, ITAR-TASS re-

ported.

Earlier Abkhazian rebels had claimed Mr. Shevardnadze had quit Sukhumi by helicopter, but the Presidential Press Service denied such reports.

Street battles raged in Sukhumi Saturday.

A spokeswoman for Mr. Shevardnadze said Georgian defenders were battling furiously with separatists in the Black Sea port.

"Every day, every hour even, it gets worse," the spokeswoman said of the new clashes in Sukhumi. "The situation is critical, but Mr. Shevardnadze is staying," she added.

The reinforcements are composed of about 500 nationalist fighters loyal to ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia who have reached a temporary truce with government forces to help them save Sukhumi. Mr. Gamsakhurdia returned

home from exile Friday and immediately served notice that, while backing the fight to keep Abkhazia in Georgia, he had not given up his battle to wrest power from Mr. Shevardnadze.

With his old enemy holed up in Sukhumi, Mr. Gamsakhurdia suddenly turned up in western Georgia and called on the Shevardnadze leadership to "resign and hand over their place to the legal power."

Describing Mr. Shevardnadze's leadership as "the junta," he told a crowd of several thousands: "If he continues to manipulate and usurp power, it will end as a catastrophe for him."

But Mr. Shevardnadze Saturday shrugged off Mr. Gamsakhurdia's return. "We have bigger problems than that here, saving Abkhazia and Georgia," he was quoted as saying on national television.

Clinton more confident on health plan

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton said Saturday he was increasingly confident Congress will approve by the end of 1994 a health care reform plan that guarantees lifetime medical benefits to all Americans.

The president in his weekly national radio address based his optimism on the "positive and dramatic" response from people to his proposals "creating what I believe will be an irresistible momentum for reform."

"And I am increasingly confident that before it adjourns next year, Congress will pass and I will sign a bill that

guarantees each American comprehensive health benefits that can never, ever be taken away," he said.

Mr. Clinton was trying to keep up the momentum of a public relations saturation effort the White House is engaged in to convince people his plan would end insurance to 37 million uninsured Americans, reduce exploding health care costs and do it all without a major tax increase.

So far, the strategy appears to be working. Public opinion polls show Americans strongly supporting his programme, as outlined Wednesday night in a speech to a joint session of the

Senate and the House of Representatives.

Still, the White House has yet to release the final details of the financing of the plan. Instead it is focusing on the "sunny elements of his proposals to make a favourable initial impression on Americans."

"Watch out for promises that can't be kept or paid for," said Senator Kit Bond of Missouri in a Republican response to Mr. Clinton's radio address.

"If it sounds too good to be true it probably is. We must insist on straight talk and honest financing from Washington — for a change," he said.

UNTAC chief bids Cambodia farewell

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — An emotional chief of the U.N. peacekeeping mission here, Yasushi Akashi, bid Cambodia farewell Sunday, calling his mission a success with the only blemish that the radical Khmer Rouge were still shunning the Cambodian peace process.

"The Khmer Rouge are rather in a bad situation politically, morally as well as militarily," the head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said in his final press conference before a grand U.N. and Cambodian military send-off at Pochentong Airport.

The three (other) parties now united in a new government will see me off, but the Democratic Kampuchea (DK or Khmer Rouge) will be missing and I regret it," he said. "But my regret is not so profound because I see the main current in Cambodia towards unity, towards prosperity. I am convinced that eventually the DK have to join this mainstream."

Cambodian co-premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen flanked Mr. Akashi as he read out a speech to the honour guards, Cambodian leaders and the diplomatic corps in which he spoke of his "profound sadness" at leaving. A Ghanaian brass band played "let there be peace on earth."

But Mr. Akashi warned of "the continuing lack of security" in Cambodia despite the 20,000-member, \$2 billion U.N. operation that held elections in May and set up a new government, but failed to disarm and demobilise the Cambodian factions as specified in the 1991 Paris peace accords.

Still, Mr. Akashi said he would not have done anything differently and felt his actions had been vindicated by the current political situation.

"Once I take a decision, I do not have moments of regret. Maybe I may have fine tuned here and there, but I would not have done differently," he said.

"I would not have marched into Pailin (in defiance of a Khmer Rouge order)... I would not have been more compromising or more adamant," Mr. Akashi said.

This relative success did not mean the world community could forget about Cambodia and focus on more pressing conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, Angola and Somalia, he said.

"Cambodia still has a challenge for its security and economic prosperity, so we have to continue our support and (assistance) to Cambodia" for the next three to five years, he said. "If it is not continued, this encouraging process will come to a standstill."

In his speech, the UNTAC chief said he regretted the loss of life incurred by U.N. personnel during the mission, but said he took "deep satisfaction in the fact that UNTAC has been able to fulfill its task of aiding the Cambodian people to begin their historic march towards peace, national reconciliation, democracy and prosperity," he said.

More than 3,000 people have been killed since 1969 in the IRA's campaign against British rule and attacks by Protestant militants determined to retain the union with London. Protestant attacks have recently overtaken IRA killings in their number and ferocity.

Mandela: Era of white supremacy is over

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The era of white supremacy in South Africa is over, African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela said in a blistering attack on hard-line white right-wingers published Sunday.

"South Africa is set on a course of transition to democratic rule... we have fought and defeated white minority rule," he said in editorial published in the Johannesburg Sunday Star.

Urging the right wing not to "fuel and incite whites into civil war," Mr. Mandela said: "Even if our country and economy were reduced to ashes and untold lives lost, we would still have to come back to the table to negotiate a future for peace and democracy."

In a separate report, the newspaper said that militant right-wingers were preparing for a modern guerrilla war, based on Irish Republican Army tactics, if their Afrikaner separatist demands were not met.

Fighting talk has also become a feature of speeches by the leader of the far-right Conservative Party (CP), Ferdi Hartzenberg, who has said the passing of the Transitional Executive Council (TEC) bill Thursday which gives blacks a role in government amounted to a declaration of war.

The CP walked out of democracy talks on July 2 demanding the establishment of a separate white homeland, indicating that whites were prepared to take up arms in support of the demand.

Mr. Mandela said it was "Time the white right wing examined itself very carefully and avoided the path to self-destruction."

He warned: "There is no way that the white right can hope to muster the power that apartheid rule commanded. There is no force which can even think that it has the potential to make us give up the struggle to bring about democratic rule."

He said right wing thinking was "fatally flawed" because it refused to embrace within its cause the need to respect the human rights to all other peoples.

Right-wingers had also misled the Afrikaner into embracing apartheid, Mr. Mandela said.

"The utter failure of apartheid ought to make them ask themselves how it is they took the Afrikaner into a path which amounted to the conscious denial of the rights of black people."

"The narrow pursuit of their own interests at the deliberate expense of others was the surest recipe of engendering conflict and hostility," he said.

Holding out an olive branch, however, Mr. Mandela said the ANC was ready to talk to all parties.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yeltsin to visit Japan in October

NEW YORK (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin will go ahead with a twice-postponed visit to Japan starting on Oct. 12, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said. He said Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev had told his Japanese counterpart Tsutomu Hata at a working dinner in New York that Russia was moving ahead with preparations for the visit and would send an advance team to Japan from Sept. 26. Mr. Kozyrev also noted Japan's "timely support" for the embattled Mr. Yeltsin in his struggle against anti-reform opponents which has led to a constitutional crisis in Moscow. Last Wednesday, Tokyo expressed public support for Mr. Yeltsin, saying the constitutional crisis in Moscow threatened attempted reforms, and justified the call for a new parliament. Mr. Yeltsin's announcement that he was dissolving parliament and calling for new elections in December had fuelled speculation that his official visit to Japan would again be put off.

Suu Kyi Lu, ma stand-off continues

RANGOON (AFP) — The iron will of Burma's junta and the stubborn determination of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi remain locked in quiet combat, and analysts here say neither likely will taste sweet victory any time soon. Ms. Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, has been held incommunicado in her family's heavily-guarded home on the shore of Inya Lake since July 1989, refusing to pay the military's price for freedom: immediate exile. "The military has laid down its terms and have made no attempt to compromise," said one diplomat. "There is no evidence that she is prepared to leave on those terms — there's a stand-off." "They don't really know what to do with her so they do nothing," he added. Sources here dismissed rumours earlier this year that the 48-year-old Suu Kyi was negotiating with the junta. Officially called the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), "In the long run I think she wants to negotiate but it has to be on her terms," said another Rangoon envoy. "Their terms are unyielding."

'Soviet arsenal larger than estimated'

NEW YORK (AP) — The Soviet nuclear arsenal included 45,000 warheads at its peak seven years ago, 12,000 more than generally believed and twice the number held by the United States at the same time, a newspaper reported. Viktor N. Mikhailov, head of the Ministry of Atomic Energy, said the Russian stockpile of highly enriched uranium is more than twice as large as commonly believed, according to Sunday's editions of the New York Times. The Russian inventory of bomb-grade uranium is now believed to be more than 1,200 metric tonnes. Uranium in this form is a principal component of most nuclear weapons. A year ago, President George Bush announced a multibillion dollar deal in which the United States would buy 500 metric tonnes of the Russian material, apparently thinking that it was most of Moscow's supply. The Clinton administration is now considering whether to expand that purchase, the paper said. "The large numbers lead you to worry that some of the planners may have had a first strike in mind — using large numbers of weapons and having large numbers in reserve," Bobby Ray Inman, a retired admiral and former head of the National Security Agency, told the Times.

Latvia, Estonia rebuild their armies

RIGA, Latvia (AP) — After five decades of Soviet rule, the Baltic states of the former Soviet Union are struggling to build their own defence forces, partly under the watchful gaze of an occupation army. "For us, World War II has not ended," said Aukseis Plavins, a spokesman for the Latvian Defence Ministry. "We are occupied and cannot feel completely free and independent." The tiny Baltic states — Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia — were seized by Soviet troops in 1940 under a secret pact with Nazi Germany. The Kremlin later deployed 200,000 soldiers in the strategic buffer zone between Russia and the West. Two years after independence from Moscow, 20,000 Russian troops still remain in Latvia and Estonia — twice as many soldiers as the two countries have in their own fledgling armies. On Monday, the Baltic presidents plan to meet President Bill Clinton in New York to ask for help in getting the last Russian troops out. So far, only Lithuania has succeeded. After numerous rounds of withdrawal talks, the last Russian forces pulled out in August.

6 miners killed in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Six miners were killed when an earthquake triggered a rockfall in South Africa's western Deep Levels Ltd gold mine, the owners said. Anglo American Corporation spokesman James Donnan said the tremor measured 3.5 on the Richter Scale. He said one man was found alive after being trapped for eight hours after the accident in the gold mine, which is one of the world's deepest and bores more than 2.6 kilometres (1.6 miles) below the surface. The deaths raised to 15 the number of miners killed in mine accidents across the country this week. Hundreds of miners die in South African mining accidents each year. Charges by black trade unions that safety measures are inadequate are rejected by mining companies.

Sanctions against Angolan rebels go into effect

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — A U.N. oil and arms embargo against the Angolan rebel movement UNITA went into effect at midnight (0400 GMT Sunday) ten days after being voted by the Security Council.

In the absence of any notification from U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali about an effective ceasefire or UNITA's willingness to abide by past peace accords, the sanctions took effect automatically under the terms of Resolution 864 of Sept. 15.

"The secretary-general did not issue any official statement on Angola," a U.N. spokesman said at 0415 GMT. "The sanctions are the first in the history of the U.N. to target a political movement as opposed to a U.N. member state."

The Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), fought the formerly Marxist Angolan government for some 15 years until the two sides concluded a shaky peace in 1991.

However fighting erupted again after U.N.-supervised elections in September 1992 which UNITA lost. UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi claimed the voting was rigged and refused to accept the outcome. The U.N. has blamed UNITA for reviving the civil war and pledged its support for the government in Luanda.

Resolution 864 was passed "with a view to prohibiting all sale or supply to UNITA of arms and related material and military assistance, as well as petroleum and petroleum products."

It says "all states shall prevent the sale or supply by their nationals or from their territories or using their flag vessels or aircraft of arms and related material of all types."

BELFAST (R) — Irish Republican and nationalist leaders said they had made progress in a controversial round of private talks that gave them hope of finding a "solid" peace formula for Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland nationalist politician John Hume and Gerry Adams, leader of the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein, launched a set of private discussions five months ago to try to break the political deadlock over the British-ruled province after more than two decades of apparently unstoppable violence.

In an agreed statement Saturday, they reported headway had been made in the talks and said they were suspending their negotiations to allow "broader consideration" while a progress report was forwarded to the Irish government.

"We are convinced from our discussions a process can be designed to lead to an agree-

Talks with IRA's political wing 'make progress'

ment among the divided people of this island which will provide a solid basis for peace," the statement said.

"Such a process would obviously be designed to ensure that any new agreement that might emerge respects the diversity of our different traditions and earns their allegiance."

Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew said he read the statement with interest, adding if there were matters the Irish government wished to raise with him he would consider them carefully.

But he said: "We have made it clear that we do not negotiate with people who support the use of violence for political ends."

Protestant Unionists reacted angrily to the statement and Peter Robinson of the Democratic Unionist Party warned of a violent reaction from loyalists if there was a move towards a form of joint authority

acceptable to the IRA.

"As far as the Unionist community is concerned I think everyone would realise that if the British government moves towards joint authority, which is the very least the IRA will accept, quite clearly there will be an increase in violence from the loyalist community," he said.

The statement did not elaborate on the reported progress but fuelled speculation that the IRA may be considering softening its hardline approach, perhaps even offering a ceasefire, to kick start the peace process.

The suspension of the bilateral talks, which were condemned by Protestant political leaders, might also remove an obstacle to the resumption of a wider peace process bringing together London, Dublin and local Catholic and Protestant politicians.

But the leaders of Northern Ireland's Protestant communi-

ties, fearful of a gradual British withdrawal from the province, are likely to be highly suspicious of any deal between republicans and the more moderate nationalists.

The wider talks, involving Northern Ireland political parties and Dublin, broke down in acrimony last November over Protestant Unionist opposition to the Irish Republic's constitutional claim to the province.

Sinn Fein was excluded from the earlier round of multi-party talks that aimed to replace direct British rule with a local power-sharing formula because of the Irish Republican Army's refusal to renounce violence.

More than 3,000 people have been killed since 1969 in the IRA's campaign against British rule and attacks by Protestant militants determined to retain the union with London. Protestant attacks have recently overtaken IRA killings in their number and ferocity.

Pakistan bans bustard hunting, falcon exports

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan announced Saturday a three-day ban on hunting of the Houbara bustard and the export of falcons, but will allow a limited number of hunting permits to foreign dignitaries in the coming season. The ban will go into effect from Feb. 1, 1994, the announcement said, pointing out that Houbara and falcon were the "most seriously threatened" bird species in the country. The season for hunting the Houbara, which migrate to Pakistan from Siberia in the winter, starts in October and ends late January. "Wildlife in Pakistan has been subjected to indiscriminate hunting, netting and trapping with the result that several species of fauna are on the verge of extinction," an official statement said. The Houbara population within Pakistan, both resident and migratory, has suffered a "rapid decline due mainly to mechanised hunting methods and use of falcons in the sport," it said. Noting the "keen interest which some dignitaries from brotherly countries take in the Houbara," the statement said a limited number of hunting permits will be issued.

Madonna concert heats up a cold September night

LONDON (AP) — Madonna undulated across the stage to frenzied applause, opening her Girlie Show world tour with a stylish, teasing and sensual performance that was all her fans could ask. "What do you think of my show?" she shouted to the 72,000 fans jammed into Wembley Stadium. They roared their approval back, ignoring the cold and damp of a late September night. For nearly two hours Madonna treated the sellout crowd to a Girlie Show full of razzmatazz, coquetry, glamorous costumes and provocative choreography. A masked Madonna, her platinum hair cropped close, arrived on stage to the strains of Erotica, then moved on to Ever as she ripped off her short black jacket to reveal a sequined top and matching shorts. In five voice, she sang several new numbers, as well as classic hits like "Holiday and Like a Virgin. With a husky German accent, she performed a tribute to the late screen star Marlene Dietrich in top hat and tails, but the act owed as much to Charlie Chaplin as the screen goddess. It was a polished, well-crafted performance, raunchy but less brash than some in the past. After her second Wembley show, on Sunday, she takes Girlie Show to Paris.

Singapore bans 6 brands of lipsticks

SINGAPORE (AFP) — The Singapore government banned the sale of six brands of imported lipstick containing a carcinogenic colour additive. A Ministry of Health statement said the additive "Rhodamine B", a fluorescent reddish violet colour dye used in cosmetics, was known to induce cancer in test animals. The ministry said cosmetics dealers were ordered to immediately halt sales of the six brands, Beta, Le Moon Fashion Lipstick 22, G-14 (Gipsy), Kenzi Sasaki No. 14, Mikado No. 14 and Taveya 3 Lipstick. It did not say where the six brands were manufactured. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has prohibited the use of Rhodamine B, the statement said.

Hospital broke law by firing tattooed nurse

SEATTLE, Washington (AFP) — A hospital broke the law by firing a nursing student for refusing to cover up a tattoo that says he has the AIDS virus, a federal agency has ruled. Harborview Medical Centre has asked the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to reconsider its Jan. 20 ruling that the hospital demonstrated bias against disabled people when it fired John Baldetta, Mr. Baldetta, 28, who had his left forearm tattooed with the words: HIV Positive, said he was very surprised but very pleased with the ruling. He added that he wanted to return to his job bathing, feeding and moving patients. "I want this to be a good teaching experience for Harborview and other employers that ignorance and hate...won't be tolerated any longer," Mr. Baldetta said. Hospital officials said they were worried about patient reaction to Mr. Baldetta's tattoo, but EEOC deputy director Jeannette Leino dismissed the fear as speculation.

Liverpool slump to 4th straight defeat

LONDON (AFP) — Merseyside was left mourning a double defeat for the region's top two clubs after Everton were hit by a Norwich whirlwind and Liverpool slumped to a fourth straight defeat.

Efan Ekoku slammed four goals as Norwich ran out 5-1 winners at Goodison Park.

The Everton defence, who stayed rock solid in the 2-0 defeat of Liverpool last week, crumbled. Everton Manager Howard Kendall said: "It's a stunner coming after that performance."

"The ones in certain positions didn't do the job and they know who they are. I've told them and they've held their hands up."

"Norwich are a good side who always threatened on the break, but we didn't defend and we were punished. Nearly every time they attacked they scored."

Four goal Ekoku declared: "The game is about taking your chances. I feel I have to take my chances to stay in the team."

Liverpool Manager Graeme Souness directed his almost weekly moan at the Chelsea goal that condemned his side to their fourth successive premiership defeat. It is the first time for 90 years that the side have failed to mark up at least one point in a month. Chelsea

teenager Neil Shipperley fired in a shot that Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grohelaaur claimed he stopped from crossing the line.

Souness stormed: "Bruce says it didn't cross the line. Their spare goalkeeper was warming up behind the goal and he said it didn't go over the line."

Souness denied that he was about to pack it all in, saying: "I said I won't ever manage another club and that still goes. Liverpool is the team that I want to manage until the end of my career."

Chelsea boss Glenn Hoddle acknowledged his side's luck. He said: "I've been in the game long enough to realise that we were a little bit fortunate."

Manchester United stayed top with a 4-2 win over bottom club Swindon town. But Manager Alex Ferguson considered it a devilish performance.

"If you want entertainment then come here — I'll drive you mad! Schmeichel has had to make six saves, two of them world class. There was a carelessness about us that was unhealthy."

"If they had dropped a point I would have been quite glad. You would have thought they would have learned their lesson against Newcastle."

Mark Hughes got a second

half brace. Eric Cantona got his fifth goal of the season and Andrei Kuchelski opened the score.

But Swindon Manager John Gorman said: "When I walked off with Alex Ferguson and his assistant they said we were the only team to come here and absolutely murder them."

Arsenal stayed on United's heels with a 1-0 win over crisis club Southampton, but their Manager George Graham also admitted it was hard work.

"We looked a yard slower after three away games in a row," said Graham after Paul Merson's spectacular goal was just enough to clinch the points.

Southampton's eighth defeat in nine league games let Manager Ian Branfoot in for a new trade from Saints' travelling fans.

Two goals by former Saints player Rod Wallace saw Leeds United's end Coventry's record of being the only unbeaten side in the premiership.

Wallace scored in the 21st and 48th minutes to make it a happy return to Highfield Road where he scored his first and only senior hat-trick in the last game of last season. Saturday's were his first of this season.

"This is a happy ground for me. The goals just seem to come. I was very pleased with both of them, they were two

good strikes."

Conventry Manager Bobby Gould remained philosophical, saying: "All good things must come to an end. They were the better team on the day."

Newcastle United Manager Kevin Keegan hailed striker Andy Cole as "priceless" after his side's 2-1 victory over West Ham United.

The 1.75 million pound record-signing scored both goals and has now hit 22 in 21 starts for the club.

"He is such a good finisher. You know he is going to create chances because of his pace," said Keegan.

West Ham boss Billy Bonds said: "Cole was excellent — a great first touch for the first goal and for the second he never even thought about it."

Bonds will watch a video of the game before deciding whether to discipline newly signed Dutchman Jerroen Boere, who was sent off in the last minute for a second yellow card.

Angry Sheffield United Manager Dave Bassett put four players on the transfer list after his side surrendered their unbeaten home record in a 1-0 defeat by Manchester City.

An Alan Shearer goal claimed a point for Blackburn Rovers after they had gone behind to a Graham Hyde goal for Sheffield Wednesday.

Whitbread fleet sets sail

SOUTHAMPTON (AP) — The cannon sounded, and 14 yachts began a nine-month, 37,000-mile (59,500-kilometre) journey.

Cheered on by a flotilla of more than 1,000 boats, the yachts departed stocks bay on the southern coast of England for the sixth Whitbread round the world race.

"Tokio," a Japanese-New Zealand Whitbread 60 entry skippered by Chris Dickson, pulled ahead to lead the race by 111 lengths after 30 minutes, but the yachts have some 50 days of sailing ahead before reaching the end of the first leg in Punta Del Este, Uruguay.

For the first time in Whitbread history, there will be a trophy for each winner of the two classes. Maxi and Whitbread 60.

America's Cup veteran Dennis Conner, making his Whitbread debut, is the favourite to pilot home the winning boat in the 60 class. Conner's American entry, "Winston," broke a trans-Atlantic crossing record this summer.

"New Zealand Endeavor," "Merit Cup" of Switzerland and "La Poste" of France are considered joint favourites in the Maxi Class.

Ten 60s and six Maxis entered the race. One Maxi, Russia's "Peter the Great" withdrew earlier this week due to financial problems.

An entry in the whitbread 60 class, the Ukrainian-American "Odessa," has yet to arrive from the United States. The boat is expected sometime this weekend, but will have to pass inspection before it can start the race, well behind the other yachts.

Forte Grand organises tennis tourney

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Forte Grand Amman is staging its first Diplomatic and Junior Open Tournament Thursday 30th September with the finals being played Friday 1st October.

The tournament is being organised by Forte Grand's Professional coach James Downing and promises to be the most extensive tournament yet to be organised in Jordan. Prizes are being offered to all runner-up's and winners. There will be a total of 13 separate tennis events, and promises a fun tennis pact week offering in total 36 well deserved prizes.

All those interested in entering must have their applications in to the Forte Grand by 28th September.

Australia, Germany to play for Davis Cup crown

LONDON (AP) — It's Germany Vs. Australia for the championship of the Davis Cup. Both teams took insurmountable leads in their semi-final matches Saturday and will play for the title in December.

Australia, advancing to the final for the 43rd time, went up 3-1 over India in the best-of-5 series when the world's top doubles team to victory in straight sets.

Reigning Wimbledon champions Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge routed India's leander Pates and Ramesh Krishnan 6-2, 7-6 (7-3), 6-1. The Australians never dropped their serve.

Germany, playing this year without the nation's top player, Boris Becker, will make its fifth appearance in the final after taking a 3-0 lead at Sweden.

Michael Stich and Patrick Kuhnert beat Swedes Henrik Holm and Anders Jarryd 6-4, 7-6 (9-7) to clinch the victory.

The Australians have yet to lose a set to the Indians, who chose the grass courts at Chandigarh to host the series. Wally Masur and Jason Stoltenberg beat Krishnan and Pates in the singles matches Friday.

"We've accomplished our mission," said Australia's captain Neale Fraser. "This was one tie where the ranking showed the difference. The true talent of the two teams showed up."

Australia, which has won the title 26 times, was heavily favored from the start. Playing with three men ranked in the top 50 computer ratings, they faced a pair ranked 195 and 251.

Germany, which will host the final Dec. 3-5, weren't fazed by Sweden's decision to host the match on the indoor clay courts at Dornbirn, or by the presence of former world No. 1 Stefan Edberg. Edberg lost to Marc-Kevin Goellner in Friday's singles, and Stich beat Magnus Gustafsson.

Becker led Germany to its only two Davis Cup crowns in 1988 and 1989, but decided to skip the competition this year. But Stich and Goellner, who is unbeaten in Davis Cup play, have proved a solid one-two singles combination in Becker's absence.

"If Boris wants he's welcome to play," Stich said of the upcoming final. "But it would not be fair because some other guy on this team will have to step down."

Becker's presence may not aid the Germans anyway, as



Andre Agassi

team captain Niki Pietrangeli indicated the final could be played on clay. Becker's least favourite surface.

Australia last made the final in 1990, losing to the United States. Its last title came in 1986.

Elsewhere, Spain qualified for the World Group by taking an insurmountable 3-0 lead at South Korea in the qualifying round, and Russia did likewise against Cuba.

New Zealand won a doubles match to pull back to 2-1 against visiting Austria. Argentina also stayed alive with a win to trail 2-1 at Hungary. Denmark upset visiting Croatia in the doubles to go up 2-1.

Later Saturday, Belgium went into the doubles up 2-1 over Brazil, and defending champion United States led 2-0 over the Dutchmans.

Israel heat last year's runner-up Switzerland 3-2 in a qualifying round match.

Israel heat last year's runner-up Switzerland 3-2 in a qualifying round match.

The winners in the qualifying round advance to the 16-nation world group in 1994, while the losers drop to regional competition.

Also Saturday, South Africa advanced in regional play by taking a 3-0 lead over Senegal, and Romania went up 2-1 over Morocco in Curo-African Zone promotion playoffs.

In Charlotte, North Carolina and moments after clinching his 23rd victory in six years of Davis Cup play, Andre Agassi

Coetzer captures biggest career title

TOKYO (AFP) — Amanda Coetzer of South Africa captured her biggest career victory when she shocked local favourite Kimiko Date to win the \$375,000 Nichirei Women's Tennis Tournament Sunday.

The 21-year-old from Hoopstad, who provided a major surprise this week by upsetting the 1989 French Open champion and world number two Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain Saturday, this time won 6-3, 6-2.

Coetzer had to stave off two break points in the opening game, but she capitalized on her first two chances to jump ahead 4-0 before taking the opening set.

Date fired a series of sparkling approach shots to have a triple break opportunity in the second game of the second set.

But the South African calmly took the following five points and again went a break up 2-1 thanks to Date's double fault number three on an advantage point.

The Japanese player started to make numerous errors, especially with her backhand strokes.

"I'm very, very happy, and very excited. It was the best week in my career."

Kasparov out of reach in PCA match

LONDON (R) — Reigning world chess champion Garry Kasparov widened his already commanding lead over British challenger Nigel Short with a fifth unanswered victory in game nine of their title match Saturday.

Kasparov now leads the 24-game contest 7-2 with five wins and four draws and admitted that he considers Short to be finished. The Azeri-born Russian needs only a 12-12 tie to retain his title.

In Amsterdam, Russian former world champion Anatoly Karpov and Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman drew the 12th game of the rival FIDE World Chess Championship.

With the ritual match half finished, FIDE has found itself without prize money after the

Gulf state of Oman made it clear it will not provide the two million swiss francs (\$1.39 million) which FIDE said was pledged.

The cancellation of the Oman half of the tournament and the evaporation of promised prize money is the biggest blow to the chess body since it took charge of World Championships in 1946.

Kasparov, speaking at a news conference after winning London game nine, rated his 28-year-old opponent's chances of winning the match as: "Not very good. Practically none. I can't imagine myself losing six games."

Kasparov, 30, repeated his familiar refrain that they would fight in every game and produce exciting chess, but he

seemed weary and subdued, as if he had lost interest in the topic.

Experts considered Short's decision to repeat a risky but successful opening from the fifth game as an unwise challenge to the champion.

Kasparov is known for using huge amounts of time and energy — as well as a top-notch team of assistants — to hone his opening lines, and such duels of prepared analysis are a matter of personal pride to him.

"Revenge is the name of this (ninth) game," English grandmaster Daniel King said, noting that Kasparov grinned savagely when Short finally decided to test the champion's homework.

Prost clinches 4th world title

ESTORIL (R) — Frenchman Alain Prost clinched his fourth Formula One World Drivers' Championship on Sunday when he finished second behind German Michael Schumacher in an incident packed Portuguese Grand Prix.

Prost, driving a Williams, came home nine-tenths of a second behind Schumacher's



French Williams-Renault driver Alain Prost

Benetton to move beyond the reach of his only serious rival, British Williams teammate Damon Hill, in the title race.

Hill drove superbly after being forced to start from the back of the grid because his car stalled on the final pre-race warm-up lap.

Hill carved through the field

to finish third, just 7.2 seconds behind the Frenchman in a race he had to win to keep his own title hopes alive.

The result left Prost winning the title with two races still to come. He has an unbeatable 87 points. Hill is second on 62 and Brazilian Ayrton Senna third on 53.

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CONCORD 2 Passenger 57 Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00 & 15, 10:30								

Prosecution concludes Muta plot testimonies

By Sana Atiyeh

Special to the Jordan Times

MARKA — The State Security Court Sunday heard the last two prosecution witnesses for the Muta University case, where 10 men are accused of conspiring to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein and to replace the regime with an Islamic caliphate state.

Both witnesses were military officers who testified against one of the defendant, a former member of the Royal Escort Unit.

The first witness, a military security officer, testified that he had searched the defendant's home in the Sahab area, southeast of Amman, last May. He named some of the items he, along with three other officers, had confiscated, namely books, letters and tapes of "religious" nature.

The second witness, who works as a driver for members of the royal family, testified that the same defendant — who had recently graduated from Muta University — had come to him late one night in 1992 to help him get a job with the royal family.

But when Presiding Judge Colonel Hafez Amin asked him to identify the defendant, the 45-year-old witness pointed at the wrong defendant as the one who came to him that night. The witness, who lives in the same town as the defendants, said he only saw him that one night last year.

"It was dark and I noticed he was slightly bearded," the witness told the court. "But I think it was that one," he added, pointing at the wrong suspect.

The witness said that the defendant, who was accompanied by his brother in a pick-up truck, had given him his name and explained that he grew his beard because he was on leave and would shave it off when he returns to work.

The uniformed witness said he helped the defendant get the job he sought, and that he never saw him after that night.

The 10 defendants, two of whom are being tried in absentia, are also accused of trying to change the Jordanian Constitution through "illegal and violent means," as well as belonging to an illegal group, the Islamic Liberation Party (ILP).

Four of the defendants, two of whom are at large, are

alleged members of the ILP, and five are former students at Muta University, a military academy south of Amman. The prosecution charged that the defendants were planning to kill the King at a graduation ceremony on June 26.

The first witness told the court that he had gone to the home of the defendant, showed a search warrant from a prosecutor of the State Security Court to the suspect's brother, and searched his room. He explained that among the confiscated material were tapes with labels on them, including a label which read: "Statement by Atta Abu Rishieh."

Mr. Abu Rishieh, a senior member of the ILP, along with more than a dozen others, are currently detained, but they are not being tried in this or any other case.

The witness said he did not hear all the tapes. He briefly explained that the books contained subjects on Islam, prayers, mosques, and one book on Jesus Christ. He also said he confiscated an application form for the "Islamic University."

During the cross examination of the witness, the defendant's lawyer, Omar Dumra, tried to establish that the books and tapes were legal and are sold in the open market. The witness also told the defence that he found out that the suspect's father was an imam of a mosque.

Mr. Dumra created some confusion in the courtroom when he showed the witness what he said was a copy of the official confiscation list. After looking at the lawyer's copy, the witness said that the signature on the list looked like his, but it was not.

It was not clear what Mr. Dumra was trying to prove, and he later refused to reveal to the Jordan Times where he obtained his copy of the confiscation list, nor what he intended to do with the witness' testimony.

The witness also told the court that he did not know what he was looking for when he was assigned to search the house, nor where the defendant was at the time, but that he knew it had to do with the Muta University plot.

Following the testimonies, the defence strongly objected to Prosecutor Major Mohamad Hijazi's submission of

documents, which he described as books and leaflets of the ILP. The defence argued that the documents, which were not made available to the defence, should not be introduced as evidence because they were not found in the possession of any of the defendants.

"We ask the court not to accept the introduction of these documents since they have nothing to do with the case, and they can be found in the open market," defence lawyer Saleh Armouti said. "If we are to try everyone with such books, then 90 per cent of the population would be arrested."

Despite the objections, Col. Amin, who heads the three-man military panel, overruled the defence request and accepted the documents as prosecution evidence.

But the judge ruled against the prosecution's introduction of a 1969 court verdict which found members of the ILP guilty of plotting to topple the regime and changing the Constitution through violent means.

Col. Amin, apparently agreeing with the defence that the court file in question was irrelevant to the ongoing trial and the defendants involved, said he would not accept the old verdict as evidence.

The court postponed its ruling until Wednesday on whether to enter the testimonies made by the defendants to the prosecution after the defence insisted that the testimonies were "taken under severe duress."

"These testimonies were ripped out of the defendants by force," Mr. Armouti told the court. "They were made after they were severely tortured during their detention at the General Intelligence Department (GID), and were threatened to make these statements or else return to the (GID) prisons."

Mr. Armouti described the testimonies as "null and void," adding that the defendants were still "under threatening conditions where they remain in solitary confinement" at Zarqa military prison.

Meanwhile, court sources said that specialised doctors were Sunday scheduled to conduct medical and psychological tests on some of the defendants to report on any signs of torture.

U.N. activates cameras in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — United Nations arms experts have switched on surveillance cameras at two Iraqi missile test sites. U.N. official Guy Martelle announced here Sunday.

The six cameras, which Iraq had initially refused to have installed, were activated Saturday morning at the Yawm Al Azim and Al Rafah sites, 60 kilometres south of Baghdad, the American arms expert said.

Mr. Martelle and his team of experts who have been in Iraq for the last month visited the sites Saturday.

Baghdad agreed two days earlier to allow the cameras to be switched on, easing months of tension with the United Nations on the issue of long-term monitoring of Iraq's weapons programme.

In July, Iraq allowed the cameras to be installed at the ballistic missile test ranges, under the threat of U.S. air strikes if it failed to comply. But it refused to allow them to be activated.

The cameras are designed to ensure that Iraq complies with a ban on missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres under the U.N. terms for the Gulf war ceasefire.

Iraqi newspapers published a letter Saturday from Iraqi Foreign Minister Mubammad Said Al Sahaf to Rolf Ekeus, head of a U.N. panel supervising Iraq's disarmament, agreeing to the use of the cameras.

Mr. Sahaf said Iraq was keen to resolve remaining differences with the United Nations, adding that the use of surveillance systems should be accompanied by a lifting of the U.N. embargo on Baghdad.

Baghdad has faced a tight embargo since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The sanctions have been kept in place, despite its ouster from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war; but the grounds Iraq has failed to comply fully with the ceasefire terms.

A leading Iraqi newspaper said Sunday that Iraq was in compliance with U.N. weapons inspection requirements and that the sanctions should be lifted.



SHELVING ARMS: Palestinian fighters of Fatah gathering their weapons Sunday in South Lebanon for storage in line with the decision of

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to end armed struggle against Israel (AFP photo)

Jordanian-Palestinian panel on border and security meets

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Jordanian-Palestinian committee met Sunday for a second day to discuss border and security issues of mutual concern to the East and West Banks of the River Jordan, officials said.

Palestinian sources said the committee, one of six announced on July 10, was expected to discuss the movement of people across the river and various aspects of security along the borders among other things.

The committee, which first met Aug. 24 and adopted measures to streamline travel of Palestinians in and out of the occupied territories, held a round of talks at the Armed Forces headquarters Saturday and a second round at the Foreign Ministry Sunday.

"We are working on an agenda and a joint statement will be issued at the end of our meeting Monday," said a Palestinian source without elaboration.

Major-General Tahsin Shurdom and senior Foreign Ministry officials attended the meeting on the Jordanian side while Yazid Sayeh headed the Palestinian team.

A senior Jordanian official said the panel would submit its recommendations and suggestions to a higher Jordanian-Palestinian committee for approval. "Until such time the report is submitted the deliberations of all joint committees will not be released," he said.

In its Aug. 24 meeting the committee agreed to adopt measures to prevent an influx of Palestinians from the West Bank to Jordan.

"The idea was to block the entry of any massive number of Palestinians into Jordan after the Israeli authorities relaxed travel regulations," said a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) source, adding that the move was "completely endorsed by the PLO."

Now only West Bankers with legitimate business in Jordan are allowed in, and they are required to leave once they complete their business, officials have said.

"We don't want Palestinian migration to Jordan," said the PLO source, who did not want to be named. "We want migration in the other direction."

The source said Israel had lifted restrictions on free travel of West Bankers under 25 in what was seen by Jordan and the PLO as a deliberate move to encourage Palestinians to leave the occupied territory seeking employment.

"The situation in the occupied territories have deteriorated further after the Israelis sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip in March," said the source.

The sealing-off meant the estimated 120,000 Palestinians who used to earn their living in Israel could not enter the Jewish state, and this has led to severe financial hardships, the source noted.

Since the closure, Israel, coming under intense pressure from Israeli industries and construction companies which relied on cheap Palestinian labour, issued permits for up to 45,000 Palestinians to enter and work within the "green line." But the situation remains grim for the rest of those who used to work in

the Jewish state.

The other Jordanian-Palestinian committees are supposed to handle issues such as water, refugees, the environment, regional disarmament and economic cooperation.

The committee on economic cooperation met on Aug. 24, and is expected to meet the first week of October. In the meantime, some of the members of the committees could be reshuffled to ensure "more complementarity and interaction" since many of the issues that concern the panels overlap, officials have said.

His Majesty King Hussein, who held talks with the PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat last week, has promised to extend all assistance and help to the PLO to implement its Sept. 13 accord reached with Israel.

"This Jordanian position is making things a lot easier for both sides to discuss things and go ahead with preparations for the beginning of the autonomy period on Oct. 13," the PLO source said.

Under the Israel-PLO accord, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will have Palestinian autonomy for a period of five years. Israel will withdraw from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho in four to six months, clearing the way for a Palestinian self-rule authority to take control.

The rest of the West Bank will remain under Israeli control but with limited autonomous powers. The final status of the territories will be determined in negotiations starting not later than the third year of self-rule.

Iraq curbs alcohol sale

AMMAN (AP) — The Iraqi government has restricted alcohol sales and shut down many bars and nightclubs in the mostly secular Muslim country, diplomats said Sunday.

President Saddam Hussein's government is thought to be curbing extravagant lifestyles of the elite in an attempt to placate the suffering majority. Most of Iraq's 18 million people are struggling through economic hardships caused by international sanctions.

The sanctions were imposed by the United Nations shortly after Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990.

Adel Ibrahim, a spokesman for the Iraqi embassy in Jordan, said the measure, introduced Thursday, was aimed at barring Muslims from selling alcohol.

"It is not a new law," Mr. Ibrahim said. "It is a reinforcement of a law introduced in the 1950s."

"Nobody was abiding by the law and clergymen became irritated with Muslims who were violating the law and Islamic teachings," Mr. Ibrahim told the Associated Press.

He denied that the measure meant banning the sale of alcohol in Iraq. He said Christians were permitted to remain in the business.

Another Iraqi diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the government has closed 65 night clubs, including 20 in Baghdad.

In addition, nearly 400 bars around the country — mostly in Mosul, Baghdad and Basra — were shut down, he said.

Libyan lawyer says Pan Am trial possible only in Switzerland

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Libyan lawyer for the two Lockerbie bombing suspects said Sunday they would only stand trial in Switzerland, ruling out their hand over to the United States or Britain before an Oct. 1 deadline for increased sanctions.

Lawyer Ibrahim Legwell told Reuters the two men could not expect a fair trial in the United States and Britain.

"But there is nothing to prevent such a fair trial in Switzerland," he said.

He had informed the Swiss, British and U.S. governments they were ready to stand trial in Switzerland, he added.

Mr. Legwell said that with the help of U.S. and Scottish lawyers he had started procedures to challenge the indictment in the United States and Scotland.

The United States and Britain in November 1991 issued arrest warrants for Abdul Baset Ali Mohammad Al Mewgrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah for allegedly planting the bomb that blew up Pan Am Flight 103 and killed 270 people over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988.

A Libyan newspaper has called on Libyans to declare holy war on the United States and Britain to avenge those killed in 1986 U.S. air raids on Tripoli and Benghazi.

Al Shams newspaper said Saturday in an editorial entitled "our blood is not soap foam" that Libyans are tired of being potential scapegoats for any act of "terrorism" or acci-

dent that occurs in the West. "Is our blood so cheap and do we have to be terrified of any car accident that occurs in the streets of Western cities because they would not refrain from accusing us of masterminding the accident by putting sleeping pills in the driver's coffee," said the newspaper.

The editorial, carried by the official JANA news agency monitored in Cairo, said Libyans cannot accept this sort of treatment by the United States or Britain anymore.

"The American administration and the British government shed our blood with impunity in Tripoli and Benghazi following an incident in Berlin ... once more the Americans and the British come up with another accusation, the Pan Am crash over Lockerbie."

U.S. warplanes raided the two Libyan cities after a blast in a Berlin nightclub frequented by U.S. soldiers was blamed on Tripoli. Libya said 41 people were killed in the raids.

"Our nerves are stretched and we cannot bear more ... the only thing left is to fight them and smash their heads just as they smashed the skulls of our children, disembowelled our women and abused our elderly," the paper said.

"We should now declare war on America and Britain with all our weapons, and fight with our teeth and nails and take our revenge with our own hands and declare that the time for jihad has come."

Abdul Shafi to retire from politics

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Haidar Abdul Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation at the Washington peace talks, is retiring from politics and will take no role in the future autonomy administration.

"I have no intention of taking any part in the future Palestinian authority," Dr. Abdul Shafi told AFP on Sunday.

The 74-year-old doctor wants to devote his time to work as president of the Red Crescent Society in the Gaza Strip, following the agreement signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Sept. 13.

"I considered the moment the agreement was signed as the end of the road for the delegation," said Dr. Abdul Shafi, but he has no technical

ly resigned as delegation chief to the bilateral peace talks with Israel in Washington.

"The next stage will be the responsibility of the (PLO) leadership and personally I have no details about that."

He has repeatedly criticised parts of the accord which was negotiated secretly by the PLO and Israel without the knowledge of his delegation.

But Dr. Abdul Shafi would not say that he was standing down because of the proposed autonomy plan starting in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho on Oct. 13.

"My role was between Madrid and the signing of the agreement," he said, referring to the launch of the Middle East peace process in the Spanish capital in October 1991.

He denied a report in Al Nahar daily newspaper last

week that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had appointed him as number two in the autonomous health authority.

Dr. Abdul Shafi, deputy speaker of the first Palestinian parliament-in-exile from 1964-1965, wrote in an article in Sunday's Al Quds newspaper: "I have two major concerns about the agreement."

"There is no clear statement that Israel accepts it is an occupying country and there is no clear indication about the illegal actions of Israel in Jerusalem and the occupied territories."

Dr. Abdul Shafi was also unhappy with the setting aside of the question of Jerusalem for two years until talks begin on a final settlement.

"In two or three years from now it might be too late to set up a Palestinian state because

of the policy of continued settlement building around Jerusalem," he said.

"There is no reason for extreme optimism and happiness," he said, urging people not to get carried away only to be "disappointed again in the future."

Dr. Abdul Shafi, a former communist who has enjoyed the respect of all Palestinian factions, criticised the overall "vagueness" of the accord.

"We have had enough problems with vague formulas in the past and we will continue to have a problem with this as long as we are the weaker party," he explained, referring to U.N. resolutions which are interpreted differently by Israel and the Palestinians.

He ended his cautionary article with a call for Palestinian unity.

Wind of revolt threatens Netanyahu

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A wind of revolt is blowing against the right-wing Likud party leader Benjamin Netanyahu following his failure to organise a solid riposte to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy deal.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's triumph in winning parliamentary support for the plan last week has not only left Mr. Netanyahu without a strategy. Three of his members of Knesset (Mks) abstained in the vote, despite a whip, and dissent is growing.

"There is a very wide gap between the ideas of the leadership of the party and our electorate," said Meir Sheerit, who abstained in Thursday's vote when the nay's garnered only 50 seats in the 120-member house.

He charged party bosses with being "blind" to the fact that people did not back Likud's all-out opposition to the historic accord with the PLO.

"The Likud must be a centrist party. If it becomes too extremist, it will find itself with a dozen MPs in the Knesset as in the 60's," he warned.

Sheerit and his two co-abstainers be thrown out of the party. Tzahi Hengi, a Netanyahu aide, has suggested Mr. Sheerit "would do better joining one of the more leftist parties."

Ariel Sharon, former defence and housing minister and prominent hardliner, has pointed a finger at Mr. Netanyahu for failing to come up with any alternative to the ruling Labour Party's accord on Palestinian autonomy.

"The Likud has failed to prepare a political platform. It was obvious that such a development would happen and we were not ready to fight it," Mr. Sharon charged.

"From now on we must work to find some answers, within the framework of the agreement, to allow better security for Israelis, particularly those living in the (occupied) territories," said Mr. Sharon. In a first statement admitting the accord can not now be blocked as Mr. Netanyahu wished.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who secretly negotiated the accord, jumped on those words and described them as "more constructive than those heard in the Likud ranks."

Aides of former Foreign Minister David Levy, a rival for the party leadership, have declared that the Likud is now rudderless. Mr. Levy and Mr. Netanyahu have not spoken since the latter won a bitter battle for the top job on March 25.

"Netanyahu has not stopped attacking the agreement and has left us without any way out," one of the aides told Sunday's Hadashot newspaper.

Mr. Netanyahu's campaign against the agreement has resembled those of parties further to the right using slogans such as "Rabin's a traitor," which has brought support from radical settlers and ultra-religious messianic Jews.

But it has failed to rally a national majority, with opinion polls giving more than 60 per cent Jewish backing for the autonomy agreement.

The virulence appears to have alienated at least part of the party's grassroots with for example Giora Lev, mayor of the town of Petah Tikva and a central committee member, accusing Mr. Netanyahu of "giving up."



Benjamin Netanyahu

He has joined 14 other Likud mayors in condemning the strategy of the 44-year-old former ambassador to the United Nations.

However, Yitzhak Shamir, prime minister until the elections of June 1992, has defended his successor as party boss.

"The word peace has a magic power in Israel. The people are under its charm, but they will get over it," Mr. Shamir said.

COLUMN

Yeltsin attends Rostropovich concert on Red Square

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin joined thousands of people gathered on Red Square Sunday to hear a concert of the U.S. National Symphony Orchestra led by Mstislav Rostropovich, the famous Russian cellist and conductor. Mr. Yeltsin, accompanied by bodyguards, shook hands with a number of persons in the audience and kissed Mr. Rostropovich's wife, Galina Vishnevskaya, prior to the start of the concert which was being broadcast live on Ostankino Central CIS Television. Ignat Solzhenitsyn, one of the sons of the exiled former dissident author Alexander Solzhenitsyn, was the pianist for the concert, organised to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Fyotr Tchaikovsky. The orchestra, which also performed here Saturday at a concert attended by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, opened Sunday with Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture and Prokofiev's Alexander Nevski final cantata. The bells of the Kremlin rang out during the crescendo in the finale of the 1812 Overture and canons exploded on Red Square, where the concert was being held in chilly weather with the temperature around seven degrees centigrade. Mr. Yeltsin and the rest of the audience applauded enthusiastically after the overture finished and bells rang out while members of the audience presented Mr. Rostropovich with bouquets of flowers.

Stripper's lover allegedly mulched, made into cement

SANFORD, Florida (R) — Topless dancer Michele Roger's violent fight with her rock band drummer boyfriend could scarcely have had a more gruesome climax — police allege she stabbed, burned and mulched him, before mixing his remains in cement. Police in Seminole County, Florida said Friday Rogers and family members who helped her dispose of the body then left a trail of cement chips down Interstate 95, a highway that runs through central Florida. A slender woman with hip-length bleached blonde hair, she was being held without bail Friday. She was arrested on second degree murder charges earlier this week after co-workers testified before a grand jury. The couple apparently fought often over her job as a topless dancer at Cabaret Internationale and other clubs. Police had been investigating the disappearance of David Alexander, 28, for a year. Mr. Roger, 27, told informants in secretly tape recorded conversations that she stabbed him to death in their condominium in Oviedo, a town in central Florida, said Seminole County Sheriff's spokesman George Proeschel. "She contacted her family, they came over, removed the body, brought it to a field they owned and burned it to a skeleton," Mr. Proeschel said. "Then they took the skeleton, put it through a wood chipper, and poured the remains in concrete." "When the concrete dried, they chipped it up and took a ride down Interstate 95 towards Miami, throwing it out the window along the way."

Physician injects TV hostess with used needle

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A doctor demonstrating live shots live on ABC-TV's "Home" show mistakenly injected hostess Sarah Purcell with the same syringe he had just used on host Gary Collins. A shaken Dr. Edward Gilbert immediately realised his mistake, which meant Mr. Collins would have to be tested for AIDS to make sure he had no infection that could be spread to Miss Purcell by sharing needles. "I gave you an injection and I don't want this on television," he said. "Well, it's too late, now what?" Miss Purcell responded. "I have two needles here and I gave you this," said Dr. Gilbert. "I'm going to be on national news." "This isn't a joke, is it?" Miss Purcell asked. "No, it is not," the doctor said. Mr. Collins and the show's medical reporter, Dr. Art Ulene, tried to calm Dr. Gilbert.